

*Agelaius
phoeniceus*

SBV 97.41.9 (26)

v. 29

Agelaius phoeniceus.

1889

April 11⁵⁰ - 26²⁵ 4⁷ - 30²⁰ 1889. 5³⁰ 6⁵⁰ 9³⁰ 10¹⁵ 11¹⁵ 14¹⁰ 18³⁰ 24³⁰ 25²⁰ 26²⁰ 27⁵⁰ 1891
 May 5⁵⁰ 10²⁰ 11¹⁰ 14² 16⁴ 17²⁰ 29⁴ 30² 1889. 2¹⁵ 3¹⁵ 7¹⁰ 13⁵ 15⁵ 16¹⁵ 17⁴ 1890
 June 1³⁰ 2⁰ 3⁴ 4² 5¹⁰ 6⁴⁰ 7⁴⁰ 9^(young out) 12³⁰ 15¹⁰ 16³⁰ 20⁴ 21¹⁰ 1889.
 July 7³⁰ 1889. 5¹² 6¹⁰ 13^(1*) 2⁷ 3¹⁵ 18^(1*) 19⁴ 1890
 Dec. 29^{heard} (specimen) - 1889.

Jan'y 6¹ 12^(specimen) 27^(specimen) 1890
 Feb. 1^(specimen) 26^(specimen) 1890
 March 15⁽³⁰⁾ 13^(specimen) 22⁽³⁰⁾ 25^{*} 28⁽²⁰⁾ 30^{*} 1891. 26¹⁰ 27¹⁰ 28⁶ 30²² 31^{Concord} 1892
 April 14⁽²⁰⁾ 23¹⁵ 1890 13³⁰ 32⁵ 4⁵ 5⁵ 7⁴ 8⁶ 9¹³ 14⁵⁰ 15⁶⁰ 17²⁵ 18³⁰ 19⁽²⁵⁾ 21³⁰ 22. 23. 27. 28¹⁵ 29¹⁵ Concord 92
 May 1⁽⁹⁾ 2¹⁵ 22⁶ 23⁶ 24⁴ 25⁶ 26² 28¹⁰ 30⁵⁰ 31³⁰⁰ 1890
 " 4¹⁰ 10² 9. 10. 11⁽⁷⁾ 12^{*} 13⁽¹⁰⁾ 15⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 17⁴ 18¹⁰ 19⁶ 20⁵ 21¹⁰ 22¹⁰ 23¹⁰⁰ 28³⁰ 31⁵⁰ 1891

Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal, (No 23)

June 1¹⁰⁰ 5²⁰ 6¹⁰ 7³ 8¹⁰ 10¹³ 14⁽³⁾ 19⁴ 21⁽¹⁵⁾ 22⁽²⁰⁾ 24⁽²⁰⁾ 25¹⁰ 26⁵ 28⁽⁴⁰⁾ 1890 1³⁰⁰ 2²⁰⁰ 3³⁰⁰ 1891

Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal. (No 46)

July Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal. (No 40)

Aug. Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal. (33)

Sept 1. 3⁽⁷⁾ 5¹ Concord 1892

Oct. 20⁽⁴⁰⁾ 21^{*} 25^{*} 27^{*} 1892

Nov. 14⁽²⁾ in flock of *Sturnella magna* in field. Concord 1892.
 " 6^x 8 1892

A. phoeniceus

Dec. 3⁽⁶⁾ 11¹ 17⁽⁷⁾ 25⁽⁴⁾ 1892

Agelaius phoeniceus

1893.

Cambridge
 January 2⁽⁷⁾
 Cambridge
 February 26⁽⁷⁾
 Cambridge
 March 14⁽⁷⁾ 2⁽¹⁰⁾ 17⁽¹⁰⁾ 2⁽⁸⁾ C. Smith's
 C. (Smith's) C. Cl. 15 38
 April 1⁽³⁰⁾ 2⁽¹⁰⁾ 3⁽¹⁵⁾ 4⁽³⁰⁾ 6⁽¹⁰⁾ 7⁽⁶⁾ 8⁽⁵⁰⁾ 9⁽¹⁵⁾ 10⁽⁶⁾ 11⁽²⁰⁾ 20⁽¹⁴⁾ 21⁽⁶⁾ 22⁽²⁰⁾ 23⁽⁶⁾ 24⁽⁶⁾ 25⁽²⁵⁾ 26⁽³⁾ 27⁽⁴⁾ 28⁽⁵⁾ 29⁽¹⁵⁾ 30⁽⁸⁾ Concord (no ♀ this month)
 May 1⁽¹⁵⁾ 9⁽¹⁵⁾ 10⁽¹⁵⁾ 11⁽²⁰⁾ 12⁽⁵⁰⁾ 13⁽¹⁰⁾ 14⁽³⁰⁾ 15⁽³⁰⁾ 16⁽¹²⁾ 17⁽⁶⁾ 18⁽¹⁵⁾ 19⁽¹⁰⁾ 20⁽¹⁵⁾ 21⁽⁴⁾ 22⁽⁶⁾ 23⁽⁴⁾ 24⁽⁶⁾ 25⁽¹²⁾ 26⁽²⁰⁾ 27⁽²⁰⁾ 28⁽¹⁰⁾ 29⁽¹⁵⁾ 30⁽¹⁴⁾ Concord
 June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
 July 1⁽¹⁾ 2⁽¹⁾ 3⁽¹⁰⁾ 4⁽⁵⁾ 5⁽¹²⁾ 6⁽⁷⁾ 7⁽⁸⁾ 8⁽¹¹⁾ 9⁽¹²⁾ 10⁽¹³⁾ 11⁽¹⁰⁾ 12⁽¹⁰⁾ 13⁽²⁵⁾ 14⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 15⁽¹⁶⁾ 16⁽³⁰⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 19⁽³⁰⁾ 20⁽⁷⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽⁶⁾ 23⁽³⁰⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽³⁰⁾ 27⁽³⁰⁾ 28⁽³⁰⁾ 29⁽²⁵⁾ 30⁽³⁰⁾ Concord
 August 1⁽¹⁾ 2⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 3⁽¹⁾ 4⁽¹⁾ 5⁽⁵⁰⁾ 6⁽¹⁾ 7⁽¹⁾ 8⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 9⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 10⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 11⁽¹⁰⁾ 12⁽¹⁰⁾ 13⁽¹⁴⁾ 14⁽³⁰⁾ 15⁽³⁰⁾ 16⁽³⁰⁾ 17⁽¹⁹⁾ 18⁽¹⁰⁾ 19⁽¹⁰⁾ 20⁽¹⁵⁾ 21⁽¹⁰⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ Concord
 September 3⁽²⁵⁾ 6⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ ♂ ad. looked perfectly black
 wild rice at Beaver Dam at evening. 16⁽¹⁾ wild rice. Concord.
 Cambridge swamps (W. Faxon)
 October 5⁽⁶⁰⁾ after this open to the 23⁽²⁾
 December 17⁽²⁸⁸⁾
 (Woffmann)

1894

January
 February
 March 6⁽¹²⁾
 Concord
 April
 May 1⁽⁴⁾ 2⁽⁶⁾ 3⁽¹⁰⁾ 4⁽¹⁰⁾ 5⁽¹⁰⁾ 6⁽¹⁰⁾ 7⁽⁴⁾ 8⁽⁶⁾ Concord
 Concord
 June 7⁽¹⁰⁾ 8⁽¹²⁾ 9⁽¹⁰⁾ 10⁽¹⁰⁾ 11⁽¹⁰⁾ 12⁽²⁾ 13⁽⁶⁾ 14⁽⁷⁾ 15⁽¹⁰⁾
 Concord
 July 4⁽⁸⁾ 5⁽⁸⁾ 11⁽⁵⁰⁾ 12⁽¹⁵⁰⁾
 Concord
 August 5⁽¹⁰⁾ 12⁽⁵⁰⁾
 Concord

1895.

Jan & Feb. (not seen by anyone although the Fresh Pond swamps were repeatedly visited)
 March 10⁽¹⁸⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 31⁽⁷⁸⁾
 Concord
 April 1⁽²⁾ 2⁽⁵⁾ 3⁽⁷⁾ 4⁽²⁾ 5⁽⁶⁾ 6⁽²⁰⁾ 7⁽¹⁵⁾ 8⁽⁹⁾ 9⁽¹⁴⁾ 10⁽¹⁵⁾ 11⁽¹⁰⁾ 12⁽¹⁰⁾ 13⁽¹⁰⁾ 14⁽¹⁰⁾ 15⁽¹⁰⁾ 16⁽¹⁰⁾ 17⁽¹⁰⁾ 18⁽¹⁰⁾ 19⁽¹⁰⁾ 20⁽¹⁰⁾ 21⁽¹⁰⁾ 22⁽¹⁰⁾ 23⁽¹⁰⁾ 24⁽¹⁰⁾ 25⁽¹⁰⁾ 26⁽¹⁰⁾ 27⁽¹⁰⁾ 28⁽¹⁰⁾ 29⁽¹⁰⁾ 30⁽¹⁰⁾
 Concord
 May 1⁽²⁾ 2⁽⁵⁾ 3⁽⁴⁾ 4⁽⁵⁾ 5⁽⁶⁾ 6⁽²⁰⁾ 7⁽¹⁵⁾ 8⁽⁹⁾ 9⁽¹⁴⁾ 10⁽¹⁵⁾ 11⁽¹⁰⁾ 12⁽¹⁰⁾ 13⁽¹⁰⁾ 14⁽¹⁰⁾ 15⁽¹⁰⁾ 16⁽¹⁰⁾ 17⁽¹⁰⁾ 18⁽¹⁰⁾ 19⁽¹⁰⁾ 20⁽¹⁰⁾ 21⁽¹⁰⁾ 22⁽¹⁰⁾ 23⁽¹⁰⁾ 24⁽¹⁰⁾ 25⁽¹⁰⁾ 26⁽¹⁰⁾ 27⁽¹⁰⁾ 28⁽¹⁰⁾ 29⁽¹⁰⁾ 30⁽¹⁰⁾
 Concord
 June 11⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾
 Concord
 July
 August 8⁽¹⁾ 9⁽¹⁾ 10⁽¹⁾ 11⁽¹⁾ 12⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 15⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁾ 19⁽¹⁾ 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾
 Concord

A. phoeniceus

Agelaius phoeniceus

G. M. = Great Meadows, Concord.

January

Cambridge, Port Pond 11/17 28 1/2 (C. A. Bostwick) 1898 Cambridge 7/2 (C. A. Bostwick) 1899

February

C. (Glaucialis) 25 (C. A. Bostwick) 1898

March

Wayland Co. 22 (1723) - 25 6/8 (Fog) 28 7/8 31 1/4 1896. B. C. C. Smith's Swamp Concord 22 (50) 27 3/4 30 3/4 31 1/8 1897.
 B. Rock C. (Glaucialis) / C. (Glaucialis) 2 (Bostwick) 9 (C. A. Bostwick) 12 1/2 - 15 15 16 12 17 20 18 50 19 (60) 30 20 15 21 30 22 20 [an. 11 Bostwick] 23, 24 16 25 40 27, 28 (60) 30 Concord 1898
 Wayland 12 (Chas. Loring) 1899. B. Seen 9 (C. W. Townsend) 1878

April

Concord 1896

1 1/2 2 1/4 3 (20) 4 3/4 5 (20) 6 20 7 15 10 12 11 10 12 1/2 (an. 11) 14 12 15 10 (20) 16 12 17 12 18 (60) 19 1/2 20 21 40 22 23 15 25 26 10 27 (60) 28 (60) 29 1/2 30 31 1/2
 " 1 1/8 2 1/2 3 (20) 4 30 5 25 6 (20) 7 30 8 25 9 10 11 18 (20) 19 1/2 21 10 22 1/4 23 24 25 1/2 26 3/4 27 3/4 28 3/4 29 3/4 30 1/2 Concord 1897
 2 1/2 3 (60) 4 (60) 5 (60) 6 (60) 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 4 1/2 5 1/2 6 5/8 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 4 1/2 5 1/2 6 5/8 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

May

B. Rock 6 1/2 1897 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 Concord 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

June

Concord 22 1/2 9 14 5 7 8 10 9 12 1/2 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Concord 1898

July

August

September

October

31 (60) shot (Concord River) 1896
 25 (60) shot (Concord River) 1896
 20 (60) shot (Concord River) 1896

November

4 + seen in w. 8 seen Concord, 1897.

December

A. phoeniceus

Agelaius phoeniceus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 16 Cambridge. - A nest in the top of a low willow in the Fresh Pond marshes held one egg. The ♀ was sitting on one egg. at noon, the day clear and warm. She flew off when I was 20 yds. away attracting my attention by the usual chattering cry.

"

" 17 Concord. - A nest in a tuft of canary grass by the river had five eggs. The ♀ sat unusually closely allowing us to row past within less than ten yards. We discovered the nest by seeing the bird's head the supercilious stripe first catching our eyes. I think this nest is probably an early one as we looked in many places without finding others.

The sitting ♀ usually flies directly from the nest when the intruder is twenty to thirty yds. away uttering, just after leaving it, a rather loud ^{shrill} descending chatter. After skimming close over the ground or water for a few rods she sets her wings and pitches into a clump of grass or bushes whence, after a few moments, she emerges and joins her mate when both fly about the spot uttering the usual sharp cry of alarm. This behavior is a nearly sure clue to the position of the nest. ♀ flying from nest.

" 29 Watertown. - Several ♂♂ singing on the floating island in the pond behind Mt. Auburn and others in the alder swamp east of the Arsenal "hog's back".

June 1 Concord. - Found two nests with 4 eggs each, ^{about 20 yds apart} in button bushes on "Strawberry Island" just below the Maus. Flushed with two ♀♀ a ♀ from each nest but saw only one ♂ although all three birds made a great fuss. No other Red-wings were nesting near

Agelaius phoeniceus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

June 1 Concord. - Without looking for them I found seven nests to-day. Nests

Four were in button bushes along the edge of Concord River, three on Great Meadow in patches of dense, rank grass, to the stems of which they were fastened, the nest hanging suspended by its ^{upper} edges the bottom being without support. This is often the case with those built in bushes although some of the latter are placed in forks. Five nests held 4 eggs NO of eggs each, one 2 eggs, the seventh nest three young birds about five days old. The parents of all the nests found out on the open meadow left them long before I was anywhere near and I found the nests purely by accident. The birds kept flying over and around me as long as I was in this meadow uttering their alarm notes incessantly. These alarm notes were a loud, plaintive peee, peee or pe'tee, Notes of pe'tee with a falling inflection; and a somewhat sibilant anxiety pe'see, pe'see with a decided rising inflection. The call note of both sexes was a short cheek, che, tee or tee. The song is quon - ker - ee (then description noted on the spot), Song The song has a gurgling, watery sound curiously in keeping with the surroundings.

" 6 Brookline. - An extraordinary number - more by far than I have

ever seen in an area of similar extent - breeding in large colony the cat-tail swamp on Muddy River (see journal, also notes in a city under Great Britain). The ♂♂ did not sing much after sunset. swamp. I saw one ♂ fly, evidently from its nest, bearing in the tip ♂ carrying of its bill the excrement sac of ~~one~~ of its young. This excrement swamp is bordered by a populous neighborhood and is skirted of young on two sides by noisy streets with horse-cars, electric lights etc. I saw fully 75 Red-wings there in a space of flaps 400 yds. long by 200 yds. wide.

Agelaius phoeniceus

1889 Mass

June 22 Concord - Saw a ♀ rise from the nest in meadow grass bearing & removing an experiment one of the young in her bill. She carried ^{experiment of} it fully 100 yds. and finally dropped it in the river. ^{young.}

1890

Jan'y 12 Cambridge. - Messrs. Spelman & Bolles saw a fine adult ♂ Wintering in the Pont Pond Swamp to-day. Dec. 29, '89, Spelman

heard a Blackbird in this swamp but could not get a sight at it. Jan'y 6th Faxon both heard and saw what was doubtless the same bird. It was among cat-tails near the outlet of the pond. As it was after sunset at the time F. did not get a very good sight at it and could not identify it satisfactorily.

The winter up to Jan. 8th has been wonderfully mild with almost no frost except early in Dec. when the therm fell to 8°. On Jan. 10th the therm. fell to 12° and to 14° on the 11th with about 4 inches of snow falling on the latter date.

The 12th was a warm, springlike day but the ice on the marshes was strong enough to bear a man's weight.

"We saw nothing of interest until we reached the place near the edge of Pont Pond where the M. palustris were seen Saturday. Here I heard a Blackbird's notes once or twice & then saw him fly up into a small bush not far off. We put the glass upon him but it was not at all necessary for his colored epaulets were conspicuous; He soon flew across the pond. I suppose he must be the same Blackbird I heard here Dec. 29 & which Faxon afterwards saw. There is no doubt whatever of his being a Red-wing." (H. M. Spelman Letter Jan. 13/90)

Agelaius phoeniceus

1890 Mass.

May 17 Cambridge. - Five nests in Fresh P. swamps, one with one egg, the others in various stages of building. One of which only the outer walls had been made was plastered all over inside with pieces of flags and grass which were thoroughly soaked with muddy water and which evidently had been just taken from under water. I have seen the same thing often before but the reason for using such material did not occur to me until to-day; evidently this mud & water soaked material must dry hard and stiff, thus giving strength and firmness to the walls of the nest, while in its wet condition it can be easily worked into place.

First egg
Nests lined with mud-soaked flags put in wet.

" 22 A nest with 1 another with 2 eggs both in button bushes. A Sparrow Hawk skinning one the swamp was promptly pursued by all the 8 Red-wings Chase Flocks breeding therein. To my surprise they overtook him with apparent ease, pecking at him vigorously. They also chase Crows. The males to-day were flycatching a good deal, darting after and capturing some large gawny-winged Neuropterous insects nearly two inches in length.

Nests, Sparrows, Flycatching.

" 30 Concord - Mayland. - Much less numerous than usual owing, probably, to the high stage of the water which covered most of the meadows. Found several nests with eggs, one with one egg which the water just reached on the under side.

A ♂ in the meadows above Lee's Bridge had a song wholly unlike anything I have ever heard from this species - a peculiar hewho-hewho song very bell-like and musical resembling somewhat the bell note of the Blue Jay. It was uttered at short, regular intervals and seemed to take the place of the kon-que-ee. He heard no other note. The bird was apparently a fine, high-plumaged individual. He was uttering the same song when we re-passed the place on the afternoon of June 1st. The sound was ventiloquial in character and we had some difficulty in tracing it to its real source.

Abnormal

Agelaius phoeniceus

1890 Mass.

June 6 Cambridge. Nest with 5 eggs another with 3 eggs & 2 young just hatched. Sets of 5 eggs.
These nests with several others were built among cat-tails nests in
suspended a foot or two above the water between the upright stems cut tails
of stem flags.

Among apple trees on high ground but not far from a swamp ♂ in
saw a ♂ Red-wing apparently, vying with a ♂ Cow-bird in amorous amorous
pursuit of a ♀ Cow-bird. Sometimes one sometimes the other pursuit of ♀
of the male birds led but neither overtook the ♀ while the two Cow-bird.
were in sight.

Aug 1 Waverley. - "The Red-winged Blackbirds now fly over our meadow on their
way to the Clinton's Brook marsh, where they roost in great numbers
in the long meadow grass. Among them I don't believe there is
one adult male to 100 young (and females?). Have the males
already begun to go south." (W. Faxon, letter Aug. 1. 1890)

1891

March 15 Waverley. - About thirty males in company with as many more he company
Cow-birds and half as many Crow Blackbirds feeding in with Cow-birds
stubble on sunny edge of woods. When startled flew into the & Grackles.
tops of tall oaks the Red-wings singing, the Cow-birds uttering
their liquid notes. I do not remember to have seen these three
species together in one flock before, at least at this season.

April 25 Wayland. - Red-wings collected in large flocks to-day and at sunset
singing in medley in tall oaks on wood edges as on arrival. The other
clear & cold at sunset. Yesterday, the weather being warm & still,
they were scattered about singly at sunset singing on bottom
bushes as in breeding season. Females abundant yesterday, the Arrival of ♀♀
first time I have seen any!

When a large flock of Red-wings are all singing at once the Medley song
combined sound has a curious, voracious undertone most noticeably resembles
during the partial hells in the clamor & resembling the hawking hawking of
of Canada Geese so very closely, especially at a distance, that Wild Geese
it has more than once deceived me. It is evidently the "growl" part of
the song given in unison by many birds.

Agelaius phoeniceus

1891. Mass.

Apr. 27 Concord. On Ball's Hill at 4.05 a.m. First Red-wing sang at 4.15. a late
He was preceded by Chittens, Song Sparrows, Brown Thrushes, Field & riser.
Swamp Sparrows and a Downy Woodpecker (drumming). There was no
general Red-wing singing until a minute or two before sunrise
(4.26 1/2). Morning still, clear & warm (ther. 78° at 2 P.M.).

May 15 Cambridge. At 6 P.M. I found a very large number of Red-wings of a May
both sexes in the swamp where the Gallinules bred last year and roost
wondered if all could be nesting there. To my surprise they kept
increasing and after I had seen numbers arrive from different
directions I began to suspect that they were assembling to roost.
This proved to be the case for by 7 P.M. fully 100 had assembled.
At first they perched about on the bushes but as the twilight
deepened they began drawing in to a common centre by short
flights until all were within a space of 20 yds. square,
in a bed of broken down last years cat-tails which stood
in about 12 inches of water & within 30 yds. of the Fitchburg
R.R. tracks. For sometime the birds remained in light
sitting singly or in clusters on the tops of the flags which
~~now~~ looked in the dim light as if they had borne an
abundant crop of some extraordinary black fruit. The illusion
was marred however by the fact that the males were
constantly singing and chasing each other or the females from
bunch to bunch in a merry game of romps for the utmost
good nature seemed to prevail. There were panics at times
usually caused by a passing train but after the flock
had risen in a pale cloud and circled once or twice
they quickly settled down again. At length at about
7.15 they began descending out of sight. A bird would
look intently downward for an instant then slide down
the stem to which it was clinging or drop with
a noisy flutter. The number in view diminished very

Agelaius phoeniceus.

1891 Mass.

May 15 Cambridge - rapidly at the last until not one could be seen
Chs 2) all being snugly sheltered beneath the thatch-like canopies of
flaps a few inches above the surface of the water. The males
continued singing for several minutes after this, however, nearly
ceasing at times then bursting out in full chorus again producing
a singular effect for not one of the dozens in full cry within
20 yds. of me could be seen. There were four or five *Luscaluscinus*
and perhaps a dozen *Molothrus alpe* mingled with the Redwings
and joining their respective songs to the general clamor. The
Luscali were all males whose mates were doubtless sitting on their
eggs in the neighboring maple woods around Port Pond. I could
not make out the sexes of all the Cow-birds but am very
sure that I saw both males and females. Both sexes of
Redwings were about equally numerous.

A May
roost!

After 7.30 I heard nothing save an occasional rustle
made by some uneasy bird. After the descent into the
lower story of the flag house not a bird stirred when a
train thundered by.

I have no doubt that every Red-wing which has settled
for the season in the Fresh Pond Swamps came to this roost
to-night and every way have come from more distant
swamps. They arrived singly or in twos & threes, sometimes
all of one sex, sometimes both sexes together. I did not see
a single bird flying away from the swamp or crossing
the marshes in other directions except when a ♂ chased
a ♀ where both in every case soon returned. I saw
a pair copulating late in the afternoon so they must
be about to lay & probably many sets are already
completed.

It is absolutely certain that there was no roost in this
or any of the neighboring swamps in 1889 or 1890.

Agelaius phoeniceus

1891 Mass.

June 1-3 North Truro. - Breeding in extraordinary numbers in an extensive (300 acres) fresh water marsh covered with a dense growth of cut-tails. I examined upwards of 30 nests all of which were built in cut-tails. Two held sets of 5 eggs each, several 4 eggs each but by far the greater number from 1 to 3 eggs or young. None of the young were more than a day or two old. There were many Grackles (D. aeneus) breeding with the Red-wings their nests being suspended between the upright cut-tail stalks in precisely the same manner as those of the Red-wings.

Both species are regarded by the farmers with intense hatred, and the birds are shot and their nests destroyed on every opportunity that offers. I heard of two young men who last year took a bushel basket into the marsh and nearly filled it with nests in the corner of an hour or two. When the young birds get strong on the wing they are said to assemble in immense flocks and to descend on the grain fields in perfect clouds committing serious depredations.

1892

Cohasset. Mr. Moreland Carter (son of J. Corwell Carter) tells me (Jan. 4, 1893) that last summer he found a Red-wing's nest in the top of an apple tree fully thirty feet above the ground. The tree was in an orchard on high ground at least half a mile from any swamp, meadow or other wet place. He saw a pair of Red-wings about the nest which contained four eggs at the time.

Nest 35 ft.
above ground
in apple
tree

Massachusetts.

Agelaius phoeniceus. (No. 1.)

1862.

March 26. Lowell. Just as I was pushing off from shore on my way up river at 5 P.M. the sound for which my ears have been constantly on the alert these last three days came suddenly from the farther shore and looking in the direction I at once saw a Red-wing Blackbird swinging on the topmost spray of a maple. Cut went his shoulder and another Monk came to my ears. At the bend above the Beaver-dam reach I found two more Red-wings and higher up still others scattered about on the maples singing until, by the time I reached Flint's bridge I had counted ten. It was a clear case of "first arrival" for there were certainly none about during the earlier part of the day.

April 21. Saw a single ♀ Redwing, the first, in the button bushes on the river.

May 4. On the way down the river I saw in the pasture on the left, just below "Hunt's Pond," twenty five female Redwings accompanied by five or six males, feeding on the ground. Hitherto I have seen only a few scattered females of this species, never more than two in a day. I think these birds had just arrived and that the males with them may have joined them since they reached Lowell.

May 28. As I passed close to some clumps of nearly submerged bushes in the tops of which were several new nests of Red-wings, built, I should say, since the waters rose, as none contained eggs. Along

Massachusetts,

1892.

Agelaius phoeniceus. (no. 2.)

the river the nests were nearly if not quite all submerged and the birds must have laid in some of them before the great rain came. Their broods will be late this year.

May 29. As we were passing Chalmers Hill I called my attention to a male Red-wing who was acting in a most singular manner! With tail and wings spread, the wings beating, or rather quivering, in a loose, nerveless manner much as if their motion was caused by wind rather than by any muscular effort, the bird advanced slowly, very slowly, up the hill side uttering a continuous low chirping or chirping like that of a young bird. His motion was even and regular and was probably caused by the use of his feet although his body was so flattened on the smooth leaf that it seemed impossible that the feet could be used at all. The effect was strikingly like that of some toy bird drawn slowly along by a string. Recently we discovered a female Red-wing in a cluster of dry grass towards which the male was moving. On reaching her the male circled around her within a few inches continuing his remarkable gait. He then, as I thought, tried to copulate with her when she started off at first fluttering along over the ground much in the manner of her mate then rising and flying to the button bushes along the river the male pursuing her. I do not recall ever seeing this performance before. The male did not once sing while it was in progress.

Massachusetts,

Agelaius phoeniceus (no. 3.)

1892.

June 13. Lowell. Several Grackles were flitting through the bushes near Hunt's landing, each followed by an excited + very angry mob of male Red-wings which attacked the Grackle whenever it flew with great fierceness. I saw the same thing yesterday near the Buttrick's landing. There is doubtless good reason for this enmity for the Grackle is certainly an inveterate egg devourer.

June 16. I observed nothing of special interest before we reached the Beaver-dam rapid where, 100 ft. or more above the marsh, at least forty Red-winged Black birds, all males were circling in a rather compact flock. After flying about for some time they gradually dispersed. What they were at I cannot even conjecture. There were two or three Kingbirds with them and all the members of the flock behaved as if excited but no large bird was in sight.

June 21. From across the river come the rich gurgle-tee or per-dle-ee of the Red-wing.

A Crow passes overhead pursued by an irate Red-wing who belabors the big croward unmercifully. The Red-wing is fully as brave + enterprising in driving Hawks, crows + Grackles away from his nest as is the King-bird.

July 1. As I approached the head of the rapids I was surprised to hear a large number of Red-wings singing in one spot producing the medley effect so often heard in early spring. Presently

Massachusetts.

Agelaius phoeniceus (M. 4.)

1892.

I discovered that they were all in a small patch of tall (canary) grass + sweet flags just above the island! This must be an incipient roost: There were at least a dozen old males but I saw no females nor young.

Aug. 11 ~~Several~~ Red-wing Blackbirds and Bobolinks in large numbers are now resorting to Mr. Steyer's field opposite the house where they seem to find some attraction among the clover + grass which has sprung up since the hay was harvested.

Aug. 17 As we were returning past Clam Shell Hill a little after sunset we disturbed a flock of about thirty Red-wings which were evidently preparing to roost in a dense thicket of button bushes on the east bank of the river. Among them were at least five old males in apparently unchanged breeding plumage. As they realigned on the bushes after a short flight they showed their scarlet epaulets as conspicuously as if it were the breeding season. Several smaller flocks arrived from down river and joined the others after we had passed.

Nov 14 The Meadow Lark were accompanied by two Red-winged Blackbirds, a male and a female, the male in the rusty autumn plumage but with conspicuous, although rather pale and yellowish, epaulets. These Blackbirds fed on the green turf with the Larks but they were very shy and restless frequently rising and

Massachusetts.

Agelaius phoeniceus. (no 5)

1892.

flying off to the nearest tree top then returning again. They kept with the Larks unless the latter moved to the next field.

Agelaeus phoeniceus.

1892. Mass.

July 13. Concord.- The wild rise along the river has headed out and Red- Roost.
wings were feeding in it at the mouth of Mill Brook. On reach-
ing Egg Rock I saw them in greater numbers still, flying into and
from the tall canary grass on the island at the confluence of
the Sudbury and Assabet. They were evidently going to roost.
After watching them for several minutes I struck the flat of my
paddle on the water making a noise which in the still damp air
sounded nearly as loud as a gun. Instantly a perfect cloud of
Blackbirds rose- like a puff of smoke- and circled over me. There
must have been fully 200, the majority young uttering the cha-
cha note as they flew. I am not sure that I saw any old males
here but there were several in the Mill Brook gathering.

July 15. Concord.- I took tea in my cabin and twilight was deepening when
(NO. 3) I started up river. As I approached the Beaver Dam Rapid I
heard a number of Red-wings singing together in the tall canary
grass on the north bank the effect being precisely the same as
when these Blackbirds first arrive in early spring and greet the
brown fields with a jingling medley from the top of some isolat-
ed oak or maple. I heard them singing thus and in the same
place on the evening of but on that occasion there were only
adult males and not above a dozen of them in all. To-night when
I stopped opposite the reeds and struck the water sharply with
the flat of my paddle at least 500 hundred birds rose with a
noise as of wind blowing through tree tops. The greater number

Agelaius phoeniceus.

1892. Mass.

July 15. Concord. - were evidently females and young but there were many Roost.
(NO.3) old males. As they circled in a great dusky cloud I heard the clear whistle of a Cow-bird among them and there may have been a good many of the latter species in the flock. Barn and Bank Swallows were also mingled with the dusky horde but these (the Swallows) may have joined the Blackbirds after they rose although I think a few Swallows were roosting in the reeds.

Only a few of the Blackbirds returned to the starting point the majority breaking up into flocks and scattering. I flushed one such detachment afterwards from a bed of grass higher up the river.

July 16. Concord. - At the Holt a Cooper's Hawk shot past skimming down Redwing wind with great swiftness yet a Red-wing pursued and actually overtakes overtook him giving him a succession of vicious pecks on the Cooper's head and finally forcing him to seek shelter in a tree. Hawk.

July 19. Concord. - As I approached the Beaver Dam Rapid a little after Roost.
(NO.2) sunset I again heard the Red-wings singing in their roost among the tall grass. It was a most perfect reproduction of the early spring concerts and I repeatedly got the "Wild Goose" effect, described by Bolles. At least a dozen males, all old birds, were thus engaged. As I drew nearer I ~~could~~ hear a multitude of birds fluttering and talking to one another among the reeds. Others were continually arriving, usually in parties of from

Agelaeus phoeniceus.

1892. Mass.

July 19. Concord.-three or four to seven or eight, never more than a Roost.

(NO.2) dozen or fifteen. They came from every direction and as a rule flew at a great height (300 to 800 or even 10000 feet) until they were directly above the roost when, setting their wings, they shot down almost perpendicularly with great swiftness, each bird acting independently of its companions during its descent and many describing most beautiful curves, while others simply dropped as straight, nearly, as so many falling stones. There was no preliminary circling to reconnoitre the ground. When a yard or two above the grass the wings were beaten forcibly to check the speed and the bird disappeared in the grass.

After the flight had nearly ceased I struck the water with my paddle and instantly, with a perfect roar of wings, at least six hundred birds rose into the air. Only a few returned the greater number breaking up into parties of from fifty to one hundred birds each and seeking other resting places. As on the 15th there were Barn and Bank Swallows flying about ~~over~~ this roost but I saw none actually alight there.

Agelaius phoeniceus (L.)

Cambridge
Mass
March 14
1893.

Faxon reports two male Red-winged Blackbirds at Abington, fresh arrivals he concludes from the fact that they were in a place where he has never seen the species in winter. A flock of seven Red-wings, all males in good black plumage, spent the last Dec. and the early part of January in the swamps near Post Pond Cambridge. For a period of nearly six weeks in January and February they were apparently absent but they reappeared February 26th in the same place. Where could they have spent the interim? The entire Atlantic slope hitherward so far as Virginia has been buried under an unusual depth of snow most of the time and the cold has been severe and unbroken.

Arrival of
Red-wings

Red wing
wintering
at Post Pond

Cambridge, Mass.

1893
March 18
(No 2)

Faxon found a single Red-winged Blackbird in the swamps late yesterday afternoon and heard them singing for the first time this season. Others were in full song this morning. This makes it clear that migrants have arrived for the flock of wintering birds has regularly and invariably consisted of just seven individuals.

Red-wings

Concord, Mass.
March 31-1893

The wind had now fallen to a gentle breeze and Red-winged Blackbirds appeared, scattered about on the maples and willows along the channel of the river, all singing of course. I saw & heard about 15 between Davis's Hill and Hunt's landing. This was not so many by far as there should be at this date. One bird made at intervals a prolonged snickering almost exactly like that of a Red Squirrel. I do not remember to have heard this so early in the season before.

Red wing
B. W.

Agelaius phoeniceus. (20.2)

Concord, Mass.
April, 1. 1893.

Blackbirds were scarce during the day but at evening a flock of 32 Rusties, the first I have seen, passed Davis's Hill. They were followed closely by two smaller flocks at least one of which was made up wholly of male Red-wings. The flight of the two species, although similar, is distinguishable for the Rusty describes longer and easier curves or undulations than the Red-wing whose flight is more jerky. The Rusty is also, of course, a handsome looking bird and his tail appears, as it is, somewhat longer.

Rusty
Blackbirds
Red-wings
migrating

All these Blackbirds were flying due north rather high up and, I make no doubt, were migrating on the crest of the warm wave that reached here this afternoon.

Concord, Mass.
April, 4. 1893.

Red-wings have increased in number since yesterday. A flock of fifteen or twenty males spent the day in a flooded meadow near the E. end of Ball's Wharf. I saw them out in force every little while - the first really migrating I have heard of this year. I suspect that these birds, ~~are~~ ^{are} migrating.

Red-wings
Blackbirds

Concord, Mass.
April, 20. 1893.

Red-winged Blackbirds desert the river mud so thickly during cold, windy weather as this season. In former years flocks resort to upland fields and pastures. I saw but a flock in the fields near the W. Ball's Wharf.

Red-wings
Blackbirds

Concord, Mass.
May, 9. 1893.

There were no Red-wings along the river but I saw several large flocks whirling about over the fields on the Bedford shore. One of the flocks alighted in a meadow near the water contained 12 females and 15 males. These are the first females that I have seen.

Red-wings
Blackbirds

Agelaius phoeniceus. (No. 3)

Concord, Mass.
May 30. 1893.

Not only all the Redwings have returned to the
river meadows. Indeed they are very scarce although
the river is now within its banks.

Redwings

Concord, Mass.
May 27. 1893.

The Redwings are returning to the meadows now
that the water has left them here again but as
yet the numbers of their birds are not nearly what
they would have been at this date had the water
receded at the usual time.

Redwings
returning
to meadows

Concord, Mass.
May 22. 1893.

The Red-winged Blackbirds cling persistently and
no doubt hopefully to the flooded meadows up to
the 21st but since then I have seen less than ten
per. cent of the former numbers and I am now
convinced that the others have become discouraged at
the continued high stage of water and have sought
other places elsewhere. I saw a few nests in cattails
or tall rushes along the edges of the meadows. One
near the river's bank, in the top of a willow had
one egg this evening.

Redwings
abandon the
flooded
river meadows

nest with
one egg.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Concord, Mass.

Roosts.

1893. As I passed Mrs. Barrett's meadow several Red-wings were
July 18. singing in the rank Phalaris grass where they were in the
habit of roosting last year. Paddling in close to shore I
struck the water with the flat of my paddle when fully 100
Red-wings rose and flew off about half going down, the re-
mainging half up river. Most of them appeared to be females
and young. At the Holt a little later, I started at least
200 all of which flew back towards Ball's Hill. It is possi-
ble tnat the 50 or so which went off to the westward from the
Barrett meadow alighted at the Holt but even in that case
there must have been thrice the number already settled in the
latter place when they reached it, and as I saw no birds com-
ing in to either roost it is probable that they are both fre-
quented by separate bodies of birds. They are about 400 yds.
apart in an air line. (Twilight was falling).

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Concord, Mass.

Eat blossoms of wild rice.

1893. The Red-wings began on the wild rice along the river up-
Aug. 7. wards of two weeks ago when it was still in blossom eating
the staminate flowers as I satisfied myself by actual obser-
vation. They are now fast stripping the stalks of the grain
which is green and milky and not nearly fully grown. The in-
troduction of this plant into Concord River by some of the
young sportsmen (Derby, Prescott & others) ten or twelve years
ago has been a great boon to the Blackbirds and to the farmers
as well by diverting the birds from the cultivated crops
which they do not now molest at all at this season.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Concord, Mass.

Roost.

1893. As I was passing up the Beaver Dam Rapid at evening I
Aug.10. heard Red-wings chattering in the wild rice on the right,
where they have roosted for several seasons, and when I came
opposite the place I struck the water forcibly with the flat
of the paddle. Instantly a perfect cloud of birds rose with
startling rush and roar of wings. There were fully 600 of
them I should say. After wheeling over the marsh a few times
they began to descend not in large squads but singly and in-
dependently. The greater number, however, flew off up river.

Aug.25. Most of the Red-wings have already gone. I saw only 11
to-day, 8 flying together, 3 in a flock of Bobolinks. All were
either females or young. On the night of the 20th I saw only
a few Red-wings near Ball's Hill and all were flying past the
Hill to the north, the big roost at Beaver Dam being evidently
abandoned although none of the reeds or grass have been cut.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

1895

July 11-

Mass.

Falmouth. - One can seldom cultivate acquaintance with breeding Red-wings save by seeking them along the borders of ponds or rivers or in marshes or bushy swamps but on arriving here on the evening of the 11th I found a pair of birds established in a ~~piece~~ of ornamental shrubbery which half encircles the rear of an occupied house next the one in which we are living and separates a small clothes yard from an extensive, well-kept lawn beyond. This shrubbery was planted six or seven years ago. It forms a belt about 80 ft. in length by from 15 to 30 ft. in width. Through the center maples of various kinds, tulip trees, willows, poplars etc. are crowded thickly together and rise to a height of 12 to 15 or 18 ft. About the edges are dentaria, spiraea and similar low-growing shrubs. The whole plantation forms a dense coppice well adapted to the requirements of any thicket-loving bird. There is no water or marshy ground nearer than 300 or 400 yards. The immediate vicinity in every direction being occupied by houses and highly-cultivated lawns, shrubbery and gardens. The gardener employed on the place told me that these Red-wings had been there constantly for ~~three~~ past two or three weeks. Their behavior convinced me that they were breeding there for whenever anyone approached the thicket they showed great anxiety flying about excitedly and uttering incessant cries. When undisturbed the male would sing a few times in succession from a perch in the top of a maple and then join his mate in trips to the lawn or to the more distant fields each bird returning with a bill-full of food. I could hear the young chattering as they were fed.

On the afternoon of the 12th E. R. S. and I searched the thicket with some care. We found two empty Robin's nests; a nest of a Chipping & Song Sparrow, each with young, and ^{an} abandoned nest of a Yellow Warbler. We failed to find the Red-wings' nest but we discovered two young Red-wings sitting close together on the branch of a maple. They could not have been out of the nest more than a day or two at the most

Breeding in
cultivated
grounds at
some distance
from water

Agelaius phoeniceus

1895.

July 11
(No 2)

Mass.

Falmouth. for they were scarce half-grown and unable to fly more than two or three yards at a time. It is simply out of the question that they could have flown to this place from ~~any~~ the nearest of the neighboring ponds or marshes. In other words it is absolutely certain that they were hatched somewhere in the tract itself.

No doubt the closely-clipped lawn with its facilities for feeding attracted the Red-wings in the first instance for other birds of the same species as well as Cow Blackbirds and Meadow Larks often visit it and flock about on the sunnier turf. But in view of the lateness of the season it is probable that these Red-wings had made an earlier attempt in some of the marshes and being thin egg or young by crows or boys decided to try ~~some~~ a place where their depredators would not be likely to venture.

It is interesting that in the case of this isolated nest there is but one female for I have long believed that the Red-wing is really monogamous although it is difficult to get evidence to that effect in the densely populated tramps.

Evidence of monogamy

So far as I have observed in watching these birds on all hours for three or four days the peep note of alarm & anxiety is given only by the male. The female is much the less noisy of the pair when the place is approached

I alone utters the peep note.

& usually utters an occasional coo

The male Red-wing sang in this shrubbery on the morning of the 17th and I heard the chatter of the young at intervals during the day but the whole family must have departed before evening as they were not afterwards seen or heard near the place.

The Red-wing, unlike the Phoebe, Palm Warbler etc. wags his tail by throwing it first up & then down, instead of the reverse.

Manner of wagging tail.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Ball's Hill, Concord, Mass.

1897. On both these evenings a little before sunset I saw two
Apr. 2 & 3. or three Red-wings feeding on stubble fields near the river
bank and singing at short, regular intervals on the ground,
merely pausing and erecting their heads as they gave the
tweed'l'ee and then rambling on in quest of food. They were
not together but at different places.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Concord, Mass.

1897. For the past three or four evenings I have heard the

Nov.4. chuck call of a Blackbird uttered several times in quick succession on the opposite side of the marsh towards the West Bedford Station. This evening I got it more distinctly than before and the bird also gave the unmistakable peer of the Red-wing before it passed out of hearing. I have no doubt that it regularly passes over this part of the marsh each evening at about the same time.

Agelaius phoeniceus

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 15 Sedgwick. One Bird singing in a fresh water marsh big enough to accommodate fifty pairs and in every way a perfect paradise for Red-wings with ^{winding through its center,} a brook bordered by tall grass and expanding into a chain of shallow ponds covered with lily pads & fringed with sweet gale & other water loving shrubs & bushes.

" 16 Brooksville. Visited another smaller but equally favorable place on the N.E. shore of Walker's Pond - a meadow of about five acres with a creek extending in from the pond & fringed with a broad belt of cut-tail flags. A single Red wing was singing here. There would have been a score had the place been in eastern Massachusetts.

Deer Island. Knight tells me that Red-wings & large Blackbirds (no doubt Z. aeneus) visit the island during migration but that so far as he can learn winter species breeds there.

Agelaius phoeniceus

1896 Mass.

April - Concord. - About April 20 saw two males which had been singing near together in a maple on the river bank come together and clinching bills (apparently) fluster slowly down through the branches until they fell into the water beneath where for at least a minute they continued to struggle until their plumage was soaked & I feared they were in danger of drowning. At length they separated & flew off in different directions. I saw no ♀ near.

♂♂ fighting

1898 Mass.

Mar. 9 Cambridge. - On March 9 Lothrop (C.S.) saw a flock of eight or ten at the Glacialis - [W. B.'s Journ. for Mar. 12-1898.]

1898

Mar. 12 Cambridge. Found eight or ten scattered about over the Glacialis marshes singing on the tops of isolated trees and bushes. [Journ.]

1898

Mar. 15 Concord. Found Red-wings/Blackbirds close about the [Keyes'] house. I should think fully one-half have arrived. [Journ.]
Red-wings singing [as I sailed back from Ball's Hill at 4 P.M.] [Journ.]

1898

Mar. 16 Concord. Singing at sunrise near the [Keyes'] house. [Journ.]

1898

Mar. 19 Concord. An immense flock singing in chorus on the Bedford shore opposite the cabin. From where I sat inside the door the sound closely resembled that of escaping steam. [Journ.]

1898

Apr. 1 Concord. Have not seen or heard ^{one} the past two days. I suppose they have all left the river and congregated in the fields in large flocks as is their custom during cold, blustering weather at this season. [Journ.]

Agelaius phoeniceus.

1898 Mass.

June 26 Concord. Within the past few days I have seen Red-wings feeding greedily on green caterpillars [Larvae].

Cambridge. - Large flocks in the Fresh Pond Swamp all through the autumn but not so many birds seen as last year at the same season. O. A. Bothrop

Abundant
in autumn

1899

May 6 East Lexington. Found a nest with one egg (an early date).
Journ.

1898

June Concord. The ♂ Red-wing, when startled from his singing perch on the top of a tree or bush by the near approach of a man, cries, as he flies off, plee, plee, cha-cha-cha-cha

Alarm notes

1906

July 22 Concord. - The Red-wings have recently established a really large summer roost in the reeds and among the willow wood at Beacon Dam Sagam. Fully 500 birds came to it this evening arriving in small flocks from every direction but chiefly from down river. As I sat in my canoe watching them I jotted down the following rendering of their varied notes and calls: -

Vocal notes
& calls

Oik-ä-lée, oik-er-lée and oik-ä-er-lée = songs of old ♂♂.

Eere (querulous), ee-e-e-e? (questioning), quee-quee-quee-quee
quee-quee-ah (given rapidly in descending scale) fit, fit - all probably cries of adult birds.

che-che-che-cheer-cheer or che-che-cheer-cheer-cheer

or simply cheer-cheer = calls of adults all times ♀♀.

chä-chä or chä-chä-chä = flight calls of young.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Concord, Mass.

Feeding in front of the cabin.

1893. When I came down the ladder a little after sunrise the
April 6. Sparrows were assembled in front of the cabin but their seed
was buried under four inches of damp snow. I swept off the
bed and put out a fresh supply which the hungry birds attacked
at once but a few minutes later a Red-winged Blackbird plumped
down in the middle of the bed and scattering the Sparrows
right and left began eating greedily. He was quickly joined
by others of his kind until no less than ten of the beautiful
birds were clustered together devouring the seed. "*****"
These are the first Blackbirds that I have ever had the pleas-
ure of feeding here.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1893. Apparently rare here as, indeed, it is in most of the
July 5 elevated, interior parts of New England. The only bird seen
to by me was an adult male flying over the Contoocook River near
Aug.15. Noone's Station (South Peterborough), July 27th. Mr. Deane met
with a female accompanied by three young at Long Pond*, E. Jaf-
frey. This sheet of water is so admirably adapted to the
Red-wing's habits that hundreds of the birds would be breeding
there were it near the coast.

* The locality was not at Long Pond but among
the pickerel weed on the border of Contoocook River about
1/8 mile above the bridge in E. Jeffrey - W. Deane Oct. 18, 1893.

Agelaius phoeniceus.

♂ albino. [48595] in mtd.
male ad [48596]

Cambridge Mass.,

December, 1900.

Dear Mr. Brewster, -

Flocks of hundreds of Red-wings and other species fed on the seeds of a tall grass which grew in abundance, alternate years, over the whole of Birds Pond, Mt. Auburn.

Among the Blackbirds of August 1895, was an albino which was shot September 5, of that year by Mr. Henry C. Helle, and the specimen was promptly brought to me and I set it up.

It was a male bird, small, and poorly feathered.

The normal colored male which I have put in the case with the albino, I procured near Pont Pond swamp, West Cambridge, May 19, 1900.

Oliver A. Lothrop.

Birds of Upper St. John,
Batchelder.

53. *Agelæus phœniceus* (Linn.) Vieill. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.
—"Quite common at Eel River, ten miles from Houlton" (R. R. McL.).
It does not occur at Fort Fairfield or Grand Falls.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 148

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

41. *Agelæus phœniceus*. RED-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD.—Very
rare. The only one ever seen here was a female, and was shot by Mr.
Comeau May 22, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 236

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

498. Red-winged Blackbird. Tolerably
common.

C. S. O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

*Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario,*

by Frederik C. Hubel, Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 57.

35. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Three ob-
served in a marsh near Cross Lake, August 6. Although the same marsh
was visited several times later, we did not see them again.

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Flaming.
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, xxiv, Jan., 1907, p. 78.*

182. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Abundant
summer resident, March 8 to November 10; latest record December 25,
1890; breeds (May 31 to June 25).

Breeding of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*) **in Nova Scotia.**— On June 21, 1914, after repeated searching, I found the nest of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*) in a swamp near Antigonish, Nova Scotia. It was attached to cattail stems and rank grass, and was placed six or eight inches above the surface of water in which I stood knee-deep. It contained four eggs, corresponding exactly in appearance with the description of the eggs of this species given in F. M. Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America,' 1912 edition. Unfortunately, I did not actually see the female at the nest, but she and a male fluttered over my head, or perched in the nearby bushes while I was examining the nest. They uttered many cries of distress and anger, and I consider that their actions, together with the situation and appearance of the nest and its contents, indubitably determine its identity. I did not collect it, as I did not wish to disturb the birds in any way. A second pair of the same species was present in this swamp and presumably bred there. A male of the species was seen in the swamp on May 2, 1914, and one or more of the birds was observed there occasionally up to the time of finding the nest.

The following may also be of interest in this connection. On June 29, 1914, one male and two female Red-winged Blackbirds were observed in a cattail swamp near Truro, Nova Scotia, and probably within the limits of the town. The birds were easily and positively identified and presumably were breeding there. I can find no previous record of the breeding of the species in Nova Scotia.— HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.*

Arch. xxxi. Oct. 1914. p. 537-538.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

56. *Agelaius phoeniceus*, (Red-winged Blackbird). Very locally distributed. A few were nesting along the Sandy River, and a small colony held possession of a marsh near New Portland. Several large flocks were seen in August.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161

Summer Residents on Southwest
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

498. Red-winged Blackbird. On a farm back of Boothbay my friend, Mr. Bucknell, saw a flock of eight. I shot a young ♂ near Castine.

O. and O. 15, Nov, 1890. p. 162

Agelaius phoeniceus. — Not common.

Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.
23. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. — Common.

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Red-winged Blackbird, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). A
fine one taken in Warren, N. H., by Mr.
M. C. Harriman, Jan. 7, 1878.

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 14

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

Agelaius phoeniceus was found at Streeter's Pond in the adjoining town
of Lisbon. None were seen in Franconia.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 152

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4 11, '86. W. Faxon

22. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 150

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N. H. July-August, 1874. W. Faxon.
J. A. Allen.

18. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Seen a few times.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 154

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F. H. Allen

Agelaius phoeniceus. — Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

Agelaius phoeniceus. — Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

32. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — Said to be quite common. I observed them in small numbers at Moscow.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342.

Agelaius phoeniceus

Mass.

Matt Owen Jr. & a friend saw a Red-winged Blackbird to-day. They heard its note & felt sure of its identity. It was alone.

E. Mass. 1885. ^{2 Hawks & several Nighthawks} ^{1 Kingbird}
25. *Agelaius phoeniceus* - Feb. 28¹¹ June 12¹² July 17¹⁷

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885

24. *Agelaius phoeniceus* - Flock of 10 (Ware River, near Rutland)

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June 18-1885

35. *Agelaius phoeniceus* - 18

Agelaius phoeniceus. Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 March 15¹¹ - 27¹⁰ - 28³⁰

April 9¹⁰ - 12¹⁰ - 19¹⁰ - 23²⁰ - 27³⁰

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

April 6¹⁰ - 15¹⁰

Agelaius phoeniceus

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

April 7¹⁰ - 12⁴⁰

May 8²⁰ - 13²⁵ - 17⁵⁰ - 23⁵⁰

June 2⁵⁰ - 3¹⁰ - 4⁵⁰ - 6¹⁰⁰ - 7¹⁰⁰ - 12¹⁰ # - 16⁵⁰⁰ - 17⁵⁰⁰

July 7⁵⁰ - 10⁴⁰ - 15³⁰ - 24¹⁰⁰ - 31⁵⁰

Aug. 1⁵⁰ * - 8¹⁰ * - 9²⁰⁰ * - 10³⁰⁰ - 13²⁰ - 14²⁰ - 15¹⁰⁰ - 17¹⁰⁰

Agelaius phoeniceus * Kingbird # Young out of nest. + flocking.

Mass. (near Concord).

888

APR 5²⁵ - 9²⁰ - 12¹⁰⁰

Agelaius phoeniceus

Agelaius phoeniceus

Nantuxet Beach, Mass.
Feb. 22, 1883

Matt Linn Jr. & a friend saw a Red-winged Blackbird to-day. They heard its note & felt sure of its identity. It was alone.

E. Mass. 1885. 2 flocks (near) Maple. ^{highly} ^{night}
Agelaius phoeniceus - Feb. 28 - June 12^o - July 1^o 17
n. Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885
Agelaius phoeniceus - Flock of 10 (Ware River, Rutland)
ton & Co. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1885.

phoeniceus. Mass. - near Cambridge.

Feb. 15^o - 27^o - 28^o 30
April 9^o - 12^o - 19^o - 23^o - 27^o 30

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887
April 6^o - 15^o

Agelaius phoeniceus

Mass. (near Concord).

1887
April 7^o - 12^o
May 8^o - 13^o 25 - 17^o 50 - 23^o 50
June 2^o 50 - 3^o 10 - 4^o 50 - 6^o 100 - 7^o 100 - 12^o # - 16^o 500 - 17^o 500
July 7^o 50 - 10^o 40 - 15^o 30 - 24^o 100 - 31^o 50
Aug. 1^o 50 - 8^o 10 - 9^o 100 - 10^o 300 - 13^o 20 - 14^o 20 - 15^o 100 - 17^o 100

Agelaius phoeniceus * singing # Young out of nest. † flocking.

Mass. (near Concord).

888 APR 5^o 25 - 9^o 20 - 12^o 100

Agelaius phoeniceus

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1888

April 18th - 25th
Oct. 26th 58 (Concord & Weymouth)

Agelaius phoeniceus.

Agelaius .. 18th Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

5. *Agelaius phoeniceus* July 4th - 14th - 21st - 28th 30

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Agelaius phoeniceus

Ashby--- Only ~~three~~ birds met with, ^{a pair} ~~one~~ in the alders on
the bank of a brook, ^{and a ♂} ~~the other~~ on the edge of ^a ~~the~~ mill pond. Not
noted at West Townsend.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

30. *Agelaius phoeniceus*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Sept. 12; - Passed through a patch of heavy pine woods,
which for years has been the nightly resting place
of numberless Blackbirds of both varieties—Crow
and Redwing. I noted a flock enter late in the
afternoon, which I estimated to contain two thou-
sand birds. O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 2

March 7th, Red-winged Blackbird;

Spring arrival at Dartmouth Mass
H. F. Dexter.

O. & O. XI. Apr. 1886. p. 52.

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

25. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 44

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Sept. 20; -
A large flock of Red-and-Blue-shouldered Blackbirds were
noted.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 2

Birds of Bristol County, Mass,
F. W. Andros.

Agelaius phoeniceus (Linn.), Red-winged
Blackbird. Summer resident, common. Breeds

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

Red-
winged Blackbirds come.—H. D. Minot.

March 17th 1

O. & O. VIII. May. 1883. p. 35

Unusual Visits of Birds in Western Massachusetts
during 1896

Agelaius phoeniceus.—Close to the same place a small flock of Red-winged Blackbirds stayed from December until March.

Robert O. Morris,
Springfield, Mass.

Agelaius phoeniceus

Records for Nov. 13, 1898, E. Mass.
over 200 seen.

Raefle Hoffmann, Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196.
Belmont, Mass.

Bird Roost at "Blackbird Swamp".

Falmouth, Mass.

1895,

July 20

For acct. of Red-wings
see under *Luscalus g. ceneus*

Northville Jan 29 '96
My dear Mr Brewster. About the
date you say in Northville I shot three
of Redwings, in our meadow, all over
one nest. The first was in high plumage
the second less so, the third quite
young & I left with the females
a young bird of the previous year, judging
by the advance of nest on way. I am
not sure but what this is published in
1st Edition Birds E. M. Use it in any way
you wish. Yrs O. Sprague.

Auk, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 100.

Unusual Visits of Birds in Western Massachusetts
during 1896

Agelaius phoeniceus.—Close to the same place a small flock of Red-winged Blackbirds stayed from December until March.

Robert C. Morris,
Springfield, Mass.

Agelaius phoeniceus

Record for Nov. 13, 1898, E. Mass.
over 200 seen.

Ruehle Hoffmann, Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196.
Belmont, Mass.

Bird Roost at "Blackbird Swamp".

Falmouth, Mass.

1895,

For acct. of Red-wings

July 20

see under *Zonotrichia* *g. aeneus*.

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT

United States of America

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Mr William Brewster
Cambridge
Mass

Agelaius phoeniceus

1895. Falmouth, Mass.

July 11 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ 12 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ 13 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ young 14 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ young 15 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ } Pair with
 16 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ 17 $\hat{\sigma}^4$ } young in
 } (shrubby near
 } our house

" 12⁽²⁵⁾ 20⁽²⁰⁰⁾ 23⁽³⁰⁰⁾ 29⁽³⁰⁰⁾ } Blackbird
 31⁽³⁰⁰⁾ } Swamp

" 18² 19⁶ 21⁴

July 20. At least 200 assembled in the
 white cedars of Blackbird Swamp during
 the half hour preceding sunset. They came from
 every direction in flocks of from 8 to 50.
 There can be no doubt that they cooed there
 with the Robins, Cow Blackbirds, Barn Swallows &
 Green Herons.

Unusual Winter Records

Red-winged Blackbird. Several seen throughout the winter in the
 Fresh Pond marshes.

Arthur C. Comey Cambridge

Mass. 'Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 293.

Extract from a letter by Robert O. Morris to Wm. Brewster,
 dated Springfield, Mass., January 19, 1903.

" About a month ago a red winged blackbird flew into
 a large wire coop in which peacocks and doves are confined
 in Forest Park, Springfield, and has stayed there ever
 since, becoming quite content to confinement. I never have
 known of this species wintering here but once before."

1898
Nov. 17. Agelaius phoeniceus Belmont, Mass.

"The Red-winged Blackbirds in large flocks
foraged over the hills in the neighborhood of
the Belmont Golf-links thro' Nov. 1898 up to
the 17th, when last seen. From the place and
circumstances I believed that they were not
wintering birds."

In litt.

Lexington, July 19, 1903

W. Faxon.

Hartford Notes March 5

and Red-wings:

Harry T. Hatis.

O. & O. VIII. Jan. 1883. p. 8

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Agelaius phoeniceus

June 3^d 4²⁰

Fairfield

" 5-8 6⁸ 7⁶ 8⁴ 9¹⁵ mit 4 eggs 10⁴⁰ 11⁵⁰ mit

" 12⁴⁰ 13²⁵ * * * * * } Saybrook

" 14⁵⁰ 15²⁵ 16¹⁰ 17¹⁰ } Saybrook

Agelaius phoeniceus

June 3^d 4²⁰

Fairfield

" 5-8 6⁸ 7⁴ 8⁴ 9¹⁵ nest 4 eggs 10⁴⁰ 11⁵⁰ nest 4 eggs } Saybrook
 " 12⁴⁰ 13²⁵ }
 " 14⁵⁰ 15²⁵ 16¹⁰ 17¹⁰ }
 " 18⁴⁰ 19¹⁵ 20⁴ }

" 23⁵⁻⁸ 24¹⁴ 25⁶ Andover

Abundant and of universal distribution breeding wherever there was water with bushes flags or grass. Six or eight pairs were nesting at bottom notch in a small artificial pond. They were scarcest along Hop River in Andover and most numerous on the great levelish marshes about Saybrook where nests were found in the fine salt grass on the open marsh, in bunches of golden rod (*S. serotinus*) along ditches and (most numerous) in the belts of cut tails bordering the crudes. As a rule the voices of these Am. birds were normal but in a colony breeding about a small pond at Saybrook we heard a harsh vibrating call or perhaps alarm note to which we were wholly unfamiliar that at first we did not suspect to, then as it continued it seemed to be used by several birds, all males in the lot.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coues

47. *Agelæus phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — Seen only occasionally.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam,

80. *Agelæus phœniceus* (Linn.) Vieillot. RED-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD.—Breeds in the "Big Marsh" at the head of Big Moose Lake, at Raquette, the Fulton Chain, and various other localities, and is by no means uncommon.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 230

Notes, Shelter Island, N. Y.
W. W. Worthington.

The first migrant seen was a Red-winged Blackbird on March 5th.

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 40

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

March 6, *Agelaius phœniceus*, (498). Red-winged Blackbird.

O. & O. XI, July. 1886. p. 109

An Account of the Former Abundance of some species of Birds on New York Island, at the time of their Migration to the South. BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE. Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y., 88-89

At our country place (Forest Hill), eight miles from the City Hall, situated on the high ground immediately north of the valley of Manhattanville and fronting on the Hudson River, the opportunity to observe the movements of migratory birds was an excellent one, as they generally followed the course of the river in their line of flight. Here our family lived, during the summer, until about 1850, when the place was sold.

From my earliest recollection I had a fondness for birds, and before I could use a gun, watched the great numbers passing with much interest. I was allowed to have a gun about the year 1820, and from that time until leaving our old homestead, I paid more strict attention to their movements and the times of their appearance.

The first birds flying south were the Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phœniceus*); from the middle of July, for some weeks, there would be a flight of this species every afternoon, coming in flocks of from twenty-five to fifty or more individuals.

ARK, 8, 4P., 1869, p. 201

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks, New York.—During the latter half of the second semester, from April until June, it is customary for the students of the Junior and Senior classes of the Cornell College of Forestry to spend their time in practical work in the demonstration forest at Axton, in the northern Adirondacks. It was while doing work as a student under the above conditions that I found time to make a hasty survey of the bird population of the region, and to prepare a check-list covering the period from April 16 to June 12, 1901.

Arriving as we did while snow still covered the ground, we found on hand few birds except the native winter residents, and hence were able to watch and note accurately the date at which the migrating birds reached this northern forest. Our work, too, was of a nature which took us daily into the woods and fields, and covered a wide range of territory, hence new arrivals were promptly seen and recorded.

To the best of my knowledge no list has been published giving dates at which birds in their northern migration arrive in this part of the Adirondack region, so I have ventured to append the result of my observations, claiming for the same no special merit or absolute degree of accuracy. The errors, however, lie rather in sins of omission than commission, as no birds are mentioned in the list which were not seen and identified with certainty. On the other hand, it is certain that several species visited the region which were not recorded, owing to the fact that they refused to pose before the opera glass long enough to have their identity established. Surrounding the Forester's camp at Axton is a clearing of several hundred acres, thus combining in close relation the conditions of open fields and dense forests, and in consequence broadening the field for bird study.

The following is a condensed copy of the check-list, showing first, under date of April 16, the birds seen on the day of our arrival:

April 16. Also occurring during the whole season.

Red-winged Blackbird. Common.

E. A. Sterling, Brocton, Pa.

Auk IX. July 1902, p. 297.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FIRST PLUMAGE IN VARIOUS SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

IV.*

78. *Agelæus phœniceus*.

First plumage: female. Above dark seal-brown: every feather of the crown, nape, and interscapular region, with the greater and middle wing-coverts, primaries, secondaries, and tertiaries, edged and tipped with brownish-fulvous. Beneath light yellowish-brown, thickly and broadly streaked everywhere with dull black. Sides of throat and head, including a considerable space around the eye, bare skin (of a brownish orange-color in the dried specimen), with a few scattering pin-feathers. From a specimen in my collection obtained at Cambridge, Mass., June 24, 1872. Males in first plumage before me differ but little from the individual above described. All have the bare spaces on the sides of the throat, although these are probably feathered before the first moult is begun. A male in transitional dress (collected at Ipswich, Mass., July 15, 1874), with the head fully feathered, has the throat dull brownish-yellow, with a strong tinge of the same color on the breast. The wing and tail feathers are renewed during the first moult.

Autumnal plumage: young male. Crown dark brown, with a faint rusty edging upon each feather; nape brownish-yellow, with a rusty tinge, finely spotted with dark brown; interscapular region, and a broad outer edging upon the secondaries and tertiaries, deep dull reddish-brown, each feather having a broad V-shaped mark of dull black. Rump glossy black, every feather edged with fulvous ashy; shoulder dull red with black spotting; middle coverts fulvous; greater coverts tipped with the same color. Superciliary stripe brownish-yellow. A space anterior to and beneath the eye dusky black. Entire under parts black, each feather upon the abdomen edged broadly with pale ashy, elsewhere with yellowish-brown. The light edging of the feathers gives the under parts a conspicuously scutellate appearance. From a specimen in my collection taken at Cambridge, Mass., October 6, 1876. This plumage (although not to my knowledge previously described by writers) is the characteristic one of the young in autumn. I am unable to state if the adult male retains his uniform black coloring at all seasons. A remarkable variation from the typical plumage is afforded by a fine adult male in my cabinet, which has a broad crescentic patch of pale yellow tinged with rose-color upon the breast. Nor is this specimen unique, for I have seen several others with a similar but less conspicuous mark. It probably represents an exceptionally high condition or phase of ornamentation, like the commoner one of scarlet or yellow wing-markings, in the Scarlet Tanager (*Pyrrangula rubra*). Very old females of *A. phœniceus* have the throat a delicate peach-color; illustrated by several specimens in my cabinet from Nantucket and Ipswich, Mass.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 175-176.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

A. phœniceus, has been taken in albinistic plumage.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Albinos.

An albino Red-winged Blackbird, (*Agelæus phœniceus*), has also been received here. The bird is pure white with the exception of the red patches on the wing, which are normal, and a very slight reddish tinge on the head.—A. W. Anthony, Denver, Col.

O. & O. X, Oct. 1885, p. 152

Brief Notes.

Notes from Boone, Ia.

September 17 a fine Albino Red-winged Blackbird was brought to me by Frank Brown, who shot it that day at Clear Lake, north of the city. It is a perfect Albino, pure white with the exception of the lesser wing coverts, which are a delicate pink; eyes pink. This handsome fellow was with a flock of about two hundred Blackbirds, all of normal color. It measured: Length, 8.10; extent, 12.00; wing 4.00; tail, 3.01; bill, 0.60.

The Smithsonian display at Chicago was alone worth the expense of the trip.

Carl Fritz-Henning.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Oct. 1893 p. 143

Raleigh, N. C. — E. S. Bramley

On February 12th, we had brought to us to mount, a partial albino Redwing, which was only interesting because the cause of the albinism became evident on skinning. This bird had the two first primaries on the left wing and a small patch of feathers on the left side of the breast white. On skinning, the whole left side of the breast was found to be in a diseased condition, smelling almost putrid; the cause of which was evidently a wound, probably a gunshot wound, situated directly under the white patch. In spite of this, however, the bird was in good plumage, not at all thin or emaciated.

O. & O. XII, Mar. 1887, p. 36-37.

ALBINO REDWING BLACKBIRD, (*Agelæus phœniceus*). — From a flock of Redwing

"Starlings" I shot an Albino of a beautiful Golden Yellow except the wings which are white. The iris and tarsus were pink.

—Dr. F. W. Goding, Kaneville, Ill., September 1, 1881. O. & O. VII, Mar. 1883, p. 24

A STUDY OF THE SINGING OF OUR BIRDS.

BY EUGENE P. BICKNELL.

[Concluded from p. 154.]

Agelæus phœniceus. RED-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD.

IN mild winters squads of Red-winged Blackbirds sometimes wander northward ahead of time. These find the swamps unprepared for them, and keep silence save for the dull *chuck* which it is customary for Blackbirds to use on all occasions. But song always accompanies the general migratory movement however early it may be entered upon, and I have known their spring concert to begin as early as February 22. No matter how backward the season, they will not brook more than a reasonable delay, and after the middle of March will come and settle and start singing even when the swamps are still ice-bound and they themselves are the only sign of spring.

March and April, and less truly May, are here their chief song-months. Later they resign the gallantry of courtship and, perhaps viewing the practical situation to which it has brought them, lose their readiness of voice, many, in fact, being reduced to complete silence. This state of things begins to be noticeable after the middle of May, and gradually becomes more apparent, although singing never wholly fails before July. By the middle of that month, even though the birds continue abundant, usually but few remain in voice. Dates of final songs bear record between July 17 and 28, and August 3.

After this time the movements of the species are rather perplexing. About the end of July almost all the adult males disappear, while the females and young remain abundant — even appear to increase in numbers — and multitudes often congregate at late afternoon in the mowed meadows. In September these have departed and the species is usually uncommon; indeed, in some years it appears to be altogether absent in this month. In October it becomes common again and singing is transiently renewed. But so fleeting is the period of autumn song that it may readily escape notice, and doubtless for this reason it is chronicled on my records only for two seasons. In 1878 it lasted from October 14 to 17, when song from a number of birds was full and perfect; in 1880 several songs of varying perfection were heard on October 17, but on no other day. *Auk*, 2, July, 1885. p. 249-250.

An Unusual Song of the Red-winged Blackbird.—In the first week of May last, I happened on a company of Red-winged Blackbirds, in full play of their courting hour. The males among them were, of course, as tuneful and as actively engaged in the cutting of capers as is their wont, at such times.

But on this occasion it was more interesting to notice that the females, ordinarily so very demure, were showing themselves to be not a whit the less animated by the spirit of the play. And very amusing indeed it was to watch these comedians in sober brown, but in extemporized ruffs, puffs and puckers, pirouette, bow and posture, and thus quite out-do in airs and graces their black-coated gallants. Their shrill whistle, the meantime continually vied with, or replied to, the hoarse challenges of their admirers, while in noisy chattering, and in teasing notes, they were excessively voluble.

Whilst loitering thus entertained my ear had been attracted by repetitions of a strain which came from the dense foliage of a nearby pine. In meter it was the same as the *coke-al-lee-e-e* of the shoulder-strapped members of the company. It was, however, pitched in a higher key, wholly free from gutturals, nor did it contain any sound that could be

represented by any consonant in our alphabet. It was also perfectly smooth in execution and mellow, flute-like in tone. The French *u* if dwelt upon, with inflections and modulations, as uttered by a sweet voiced Parisienne might closely, I imagine, represent the sound. After a while this singer came from his concealment, and, poising on an outer spray, there sang for eight or ten minutes, before flitting off, to be again hidden by the neighboring foliage. — THOMAS PROCTOR, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Mass. (Middlebury Co.)

Agelaius phoeniceus ✓

1886

Resting habits

May 20

On Concord River I found six nests in the course of a few minutes. Two held 4 eggs each, one 3 eggs, and three 1 egg. All were similarly placed either in the tops of tussocks or among tall marsh grass raised well above the water and attached to the upright stems. One was lined neatly with horse hair. Three were partially overarched by dry or living grass but the were all easily visible from yards away. The sitting female fled off while I was several rods away and

Mass. (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus

Notes & nesting - Polygamous?

JUN 2 1887

Examined eight or ten nests, all with 4 eggs each. A recent heavy rain has raised the river nearly two feet and most of them nests were only a few (3 to 6) inches above the water. The majority were in button bushes & very conspicuous but still resembling drift caught in the branches. One, however, was in a white maple at least 5 ft. above the river.

A colony of at least a dozen ♀♀ with nests contained only 2 males. Probably they are polygamous. They never fight, however, and

W. H. Lucas, of Bridgeport, Conn., reports finding a runt egg of the Red-winged Black-bird last year, which only measured .46 x .42. It is almost round.

O. & O. XVI, Jan. 1891, p. 10

song of ♂ ho-her-lee; ho-el-lee
or ho-her-ell-lee the accent
on last syllable with rising
inflection. The song lasts from
 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 second, usually about $\frac{3}{4}$
of a second.

flying a few yards skulked
away through the grass or
bushes.

Besides their big nests I
saw as many more that
I did not stop to examine.
The birds seemed to be
breeding in colonies there
being usually two or three
nests within an area of
a few rods. There can
be no question that the
birds are polygamous in
two places I found a
single ♂ watching over three
or four sitting ♀s, in each
case the ♂ was an
exceptionally fairdy colored
one.

W. H. Lucas, of Bridgeport, Conn., reports
finding a runt egg of the Red-winged Black-
bird last year, which only measured .46 x .42.
It is almost round.

O. & O. XVI, Jan, 1891, p. 16

Rare and Curious Birds Nests.

Before me is a curious nest of the Swamp Blackbird. This is a rather bulky affair for the species, and was found built in the top of a cluster of cat-tails. It is firmly made of broad grasses, and securely fastened to the stems of the reeds, some eight in number, by the same kind of material that enters into its composition.

Prof. Thomas G. Coates
O. & O. 2, July, 1885, p. 112

Some Curious Sets of Eggs.

BY I. S. REIFF.

Set I. Four eggs of the Red and Buff shouldered Blackbird, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Three of these very closely resembled the eggs of the American Bittern, (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). In ground color No. 1 has a wreath around the larger end of very fine lines. No. 2 has also a wreath around the larger end, the lines being much heavier, with a heavy black spot nearly in the centre about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. No. 3 has a few fine lines on one side leading from the larger end. No. 4 has the typical ground color of the species without a mark. O & O. XIII, Oct. 1888 p. 152

Birds Flogs Co, N. Y. Alden Loring

261. Swamp Blackbird. Common. This bird is one of the earliest to arrive on its northern migration, making its appearance about the middle of March. It arrives in large flocks, the males preceding the females a week or more. The nest is built in a small bush or hung from two or three cattail stalks. It is composed of dried grass and weeds, and is lined with fine roots. It is deeply hollowed. The eggs, usually four in number, are of a light blue color, blotched and serawled with dark brown and obscure spots of black. The measurements of a set of four are 1 in. by 11-18 in., 35-36 in. by 23-36 in., 35-36 in. by 22-36 in., and 1 in. by 23-36 in. These birds love the society of each other and breed in communities. I have found as many as twelve nests in a space of less than half an acre. Two broods are often reared in a season.

O, & O, XV, June, 1890, p. 83

The Number of Eggs in a Set.

BY WALTER HOXIE, FROGMORE, S. C.

I am glad to see this subject discussed in the O. AND O., and think that the more light we have thrown on it the better.

Now I am quite sure that the number of eggs laid by some species varies greatly with the habitat of the bird. Take the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) as an instance. Three, and nearly as often two, eggs comprise the full nest complement here, while about the middle range of its habitat, four or five are laid.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1887, p. 134

Capacity of Eggs.

BY WALTER HOXIE, FROGMORE, S. C.

Ten measurements of the capacity of the eggs of the Red-winged Blackbird show an average of .298 cubic inches. Variations from the mean, but little more than five per cent.

O. & O. XI, July 1886, p. 103.

No. Eggs in Set C. S. Brimley

Red-winged Blackbird. Standard set, three or four. Variation, three to five; three seems as common if not commoner than four, and I have only seen one set of five.

O. & O, 15, Oct. 1890, p. 146

Mass. (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus ✓

1886

Abundance & tenness.

May 6

Red wings are exceedingly abundant along the river. I saw at least 100 in rowing down to Ball's Hill this morning. They were scattered everywhere along the banks and over the meadows, a male in nearly every maple or alder top. The females were also out in goodly numbers & probably not breeding yet. Both sexes were extraordinarily tame. I rowed within five or eight yards of several and shot three.

Mass. (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus ✓

1886

Flocking & roosting

June 28

Saw the first flock of Red-wings this evening, some thirty odd, mostly young birds, settling to roost in the tall "fox tail" grass at mouth of Mill Brook.

July 7

Large flocks going to roost at sunset in the *Phalaris* & *Dicranis* bordering the river.

" 9

As I paddled down river early in P.M. the young were continually rising from the tall grass bordering the river making a heavy fluttering. Their note is a chattering chek-chek-chek or cha-cha-cha similar to adults but harsher.

An adult ♂ when the nest is
thrust into a clean white
tee.

July 2. Saw an adult ♂ carrying
a bill-full of food to young
in bottom holes.

July 4. An adult ♂ killing on a
bank over the river was chucking
so exactly like a Chipmunk Agaveid
that I at first was took it
for one.

Mass. (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus ✓

1886

Abundance & manners.

May 6

Red wings are exceedingly abundant along
the river. I saw at least 100 in rowing down
to Ball's Hill this morning. They were scattered
everywhere along the banks and over the meadows,
a male in nearly every maple or alder top.
The females were also out in goodly numbers
& probably not breeding yet. Both sexes
were extraordinarily tame. I rowed within five
or eight yards of several and shot three
times at one within ten yards, with a pistol,
before it would fly.

Mass. (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus

1887

Roosting in trees

Aug. 15

About 100 roosting in young maples & black willows (trees 12 to 15 ft high) on the banks of Concord River. They came stringing in in small flocks shortly after sunset and for awhile kept up a constant chatter. Every now and then as if tired with a pair, they would dash wildly out on every side returning soon after. About 200 Swallows roosted with them coming in much later than the Red-wings. The latter, however, were much more easily alarmed after dark ~~dash~~ out

Mass (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus

1888

Occurrence in late October

Oct. 26

Five seen between Concord & Wayland along the river, one just above the Cattle Fair grounds in a flock of six Rusty Blackbirds in alders, two flying about over the lower end of the Sudbury meadows, two an hour later (nearly dark) startled by one boat from a tangle of tall rushes & cut tails when they had evidently gone to roost. The only bird seen distinctly enough to make out colors was the first named. It was a young ♂ with red shoulders & rusty plumage.

very thin I made a bird
more visible in amount
of vein would start the
breakdown.

Mass (Concord)

Agelaius phoeniceus

1888

Occurrence in late October

Oct. 26 Five seen between Concord & Wayland along
the river, one just above the Cattle Fair grounds
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a tangle of tall rushes & cut tails when
they had evidently gone to roost. The
only bird seen distinctly enough to make out
colors was the first named. It was a young
♂ with red shoulders & rusty plumage.

Uglaux Phœniceus

Concord Mass.

Oct. 20. 1880.

I have rarely seen the Red-winged Black Bird in Mass. after the close of August. But like the Cow-birds a few flocks occasionally stay through October.

While on Concord, Prior this afternoon a flock of at least fifty individuals flew overhead.

Had it been possible to mistake their flight any doubt as to their identity was dispelled by their characteristic notes.

Decrease of Birds in Mass. J. A. Allen

In early times premiums were paid by the local governments for the destruction of many of these species, and not without cause. The early records show that such was the abundance of the Black-birds and Crows that their destruction in large numbers was absolutely necessary, in order to secure more than a small portion of the maize harvest. While most, or at least many, of the towns early encouraged the destruction of the noxious mammals and birds by the offer of rewards therefor, others passed enactments rendering it obligatory upon each householder to destroy a certain number of blackbirds annually, and to bring their heads to the selectmen of the towns to show they had complied with the requisition, on penalty of a small fine for each blackbird lacking to complete the required number.* These means seem to have been immediate, and in some cases disastrous, in their results. The traveller, Kalm, relates that Dr. Franklin told him, in 1750, that in consequence of the premiums that had been paid for killing these birds in New England, they had become so nearly extirpated there that they were "very rarely seen, and in few places only." In consequence of this exterminating warfare on the "maize-thieves," the worms that preyed upon the grass increased so rapidly that in the summer of 1749 the hay crop was almost wholly cut off by them, the planters being obliged to bring hay from Pennsylvania, and even from England, to Massachusetts, to meet the deficiency caused by the worms.*

* See Alonzo Lewis's History of Lynn, p. 186.

* Kalm's Travels, Forster's translation, Vol. II, p. 78.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Sept, 1876, p. 54-55.

Wintering of the Red-winged Blackbird near Cambridge, Mass.—On the 29th of December, 1889, while passing along the edge of a small swamp grown up with cat-tails, low bushes, birches, and maples, not far from Fresh Pond, I heard repeatedly the note of a Blackbird. I was un-

able to follow up the sound owing to the thinness of the ice with which the swamp was coated, and failed to see the bird, although it answered my 'squeaking' several times. January 12, 1890, I visited the same swamp in company with Mr. Frank Bolles, and, finding the ice strong enough to bear, went towards some low bushes where I had heard the bird upon the previous date, and soon started a male Red-winged Blackbird in clear bright plumage. After alighting for a few moments in a small birch not forty yards away, the bird flew off across the swamp.

My friend Mr. Walter Faxon informs me that he found a Red-winged Blackbird in the same swamp on January 6, and 27, and on February 1, and 23, 1890, which was doubtless the same bird. The presence of this bird through January, a month which may be regarded as a test month for birds which are spending the winter with us, and on into February until within a few days of the arrival of the spring migrants, is thus established, and affords, I believe, the first record of the wintering of the Red-winged Blackbird in Massachusetts.—HENRY M. SPELMAN, Cambridge, Mass.

Ank, VII. July, 1890, p. 288-289.

Buff-shouldered Black-bird:

See note by Purdy, "Nests that Perished in the Storm," under Red-shouldered Black-bird.

O. & O. 14. July, 1889, p. 109-110.

Migration from Mexico to N. Y.
Fall-1886—E. C. Thruher + M. M. Green

Now & several Purple Grackles in
a large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds

O. & O. XI. June, 1886, p. 93.

464. *Birds out of Place.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 476, 477. Vol. XV
—Red-winged Blackbirds and Robins seen in December and January at
Webster City, Iowa. Amer. Naturalist.

2. 1651. *A Bit of Bird Life.* By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LVI,
No. 333, July, 1885, pp. 70-74.—*Agelaius phoeniceus*. Atlantic Mon.

I should suppose that the bird
 checked it out. When the
 black-birds are busy with
 the ♂ blackbirds of the
 with its better gear, as in the
 case with the specimen it was
 the an undecayed man - fresh
 skin.

3. The Oologist, 1633. *Thousands of Blackbirds.* By John Mykrantz. *Ibid.*, p. 236.
—At Paola, Kansas. Ank, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 84.

4. 1955. *Blackbirds and Migration.* By S. A. Ball. *Ibid.*, No. 7, July,
1889, pp. 49-51. 1890, Vol. 4,

5. 757. *Notes on the Red-wing Blackbird.* By Charles Aldrich, *Ibid.*,
pp. 309, 310.—On its nesting habits and decrease in numbers through the
reclamation of wet lands. Amer. Naturalist, XVIII

6. 1269. [*An Albino Redwing Blackbird.*] By R. B. Morgan. *Ibid.*,
No. 16, April 16, p. 367.—Entirely white except the shoulder patches,
which are normal. American Field, XXVII

7. 464. *Red-winged Starlings.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV, pp. 293,
294.—Observed at Webster City, Iowa, in December. Amer. Naturalist,

Wintering of the Red-winged Blackbird near Cambridge, Mass.— On the 29th of December, 1889, while passing along the edge of a small swamp grown up with eat-tails, low bushes, birches, and maples, not far from Fresh Pond, I heard repeatedly the note of a Blackbird. I was un-

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Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 288-289.

Buff-shouldered Black-bird:

Jaffrey N.H.
Aug. 10-1893

Dear Will.

I was very glad to hear from you again. The arrangement of the inflorescence of the *Zyganeis* is as I said. The lower spreading branches are staminate. Each flower consisted of two glumes, or thin scales, enclosing 6 stamens with short filaments and long yellow anthers. The anthers in your specimen have opened and entirely shed their pollen. The flower is thus



As I said, the spikelets are very deciduous and even when you pick a specimen the spikelets soon fall off from the joints pedicels or stems. leaving them thus: 4 ♀ flowers were on these club-shaped pedicels - "Nests that Per-

The Oologist, 1633. Thousands of Blackbirds. By John Mykrantz. *Ibid.*, p. 236.
—At Paola, Kansas. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 86.
1955. Blackbirds and Migration. By S. A. Ball. *Ibid.*, No. 7, July, 1889, pp. 49-51. *The Loon*, Vol. 1, p. 787.
Notes on the Red-wing Blackbird. By Charles Aldrich, *Ibid.*, pp. 309, 310.—On its nesting habits and decrease in numbers through the reclamation of wet lands. *Amer. Naturalist*, XVIII, 1269. [An Albino Redwing Blackbird.] By R. B. Morgan. *Ibid.*, No. 16, April 16, p. 367.—Entirely white except the shoulder patches, which are normal. *American Field*, XXVII, 462.
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Ann., VII. July, 1890, p. 288-289.

Buff-shouldered Black-bird:

The stigmas wither, and, when the grain ripens, it is linear slender, half an inch long.

Your specimen is past flower, but not ~~at~~ all in fruit.

I examined the ♀ flowers carefully, and found the ovary very young. In some cases it seemed to have withered up, and in 2 cases, insects' eggs took its place.

I don't know exactly when it fruits, but it can't be for some little time. You might seed me more in a couple of weeks. The fruit is very deciduous and I don't imagine that the grain falls out of the glumes—

The upper flowers are pistillate. They consist each of two long glumes, one of them tipped with a long awn. At the base of the glumes is the pistil, with two small scales at the base and tufted stigmas. When in flower it looks thus—

The stigmas are exposed to receive the pollen. The pistil removed from the glumes looks thus—

After fertilization the glumes close and the pistil begins to develop into the fruit or caryopsis as it is called. The flower then looks thus—



3. *The Oologist*, 1633. Thousands of Blackbirds. By John Mykrantz. *Ibid.*, p. 236. —At Paola, Kansas. *Ann.*, VII. Jan. 1890, p. 84.

4. 1955. Blackbirds and Migration. By S. A. Ball. *Ibid.*, No. 7, July, 1889, pp. 49-51. *The Loon*, Vol. 1.

5. 787. Notes on the Red-wing Blackbird. By Charles Aldrich, *Ibid.*, pp. 309, 310.—On its nesting habits and decrease in numbers through the reclamation of wet lands. *Amer. Naturalist*, XVIII.

6. 1269. [An Albino Redwing Blackbird.] By R. B. Morgan. *Ibid.*, No. 16, April 16, p. 367.—Entirely white except the shoulder patches, which are normal. *American Field*, XXVII.

7. 462. Red-winged Starlings. By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV, pp. 203, 294.—Observed at Webster City, Iowa, in December. *Amer. Naturalist*.

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Migration from Morristown N. J.
Fall-1886—E. C. Thresher + M. M. Green

Now & several Purple Grackles in
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1951. *A Bit of Bird Life*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LVI,
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294.—Observed at Webster City, Iowa, in December. *Amer. Naturalist*.

I should suppose that the bird
skulled it out. What the
black-birds are doing with
the ♂ blossoms I don't know.
With the pollen gone, as in the
case with this specimen, it must
be an unnecessary mess. Great
chance for careful observation.

I like to have you write
about these matters extremely. I
am always ready. Continue.

We had tremendous thunder-storms
with hail Monday. Strange about your
city roads. Never heard of it. May is
in first rate. He walked a mile last
evening in pitch dark with lantern.
Got into no pockets 

I have hired a bicycle, pneu-
matic tires, only 33 lbs! It has
been too hot to ride since I got it.
Love to Carry. Regards to the house.
Dad - Papa - Mr. & Mrs. & Paul Hubbard.
Also the Muskies, turtles & all.
Ever Walter Deane.

Notes from Smithville, Georgia.

This village is situated in southwest Georgia, just below the thirty-second parallel, and to the ornithologist, whether professional or amateur, the surrounding country affords an interesting field for observation and study.

At this date (January) great flocks of Blackbirds may be seen every morning flying from northeast to southwest, and about 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon returning on their passage to roost.

Their flight is about 100 feet above the earth and is rapid and vigorous. In these daily journeys they move with striking order and precision, and at no time is this more noticeable than when pursued by a

Hawk. The poor birds, at such times, seeing their terrible enemy coming with wings half closed and swift almost as an arrow from a new-made bow, are frightened beyond describing and put forth all the power of wing they possess to escape, if possible, the fatal stroke. They dash to the right, to the left, sweep to the ground, then rise as swiftly high in air, again to move onward with the rush and roar of a furious wind, but all the while keeping their ranks solid and unbroken, until the Hawk actually shoots himself into the flock and seizes his single victim. And in this connection I will state I have often observed that one Hawk could strike more terror and dismay into a flock of birds, than half a dozen men with as many shotguns could in the same length of time.

These birds feed now wherever they find their food most abundant, whether in swamp or on hill. During the early part of this month they can be found frequenting the fresh-sown oat fields, picking up the stray grains from off the surface.

Our vast pine forests are generally swept by them in November and December and scarcely a seed of the pine is visible when they have left for other feeding grounds.

W. B. H. Smithville, Georgia.

O. & O. IX, May, 1864, p. 54.

Change of Breeding Habits of Red-winged Blackbird.

BY LYNDY JONES, GRINNELL, IOWA.

My earliest recollections of any thing like ornithological work are associated with the semi-pensile nest of *Agelaius phoeniceus* that we found abundant among the flags in marshy places in which this prairie country abounded. I recall no instance of a nest being found elsewhere than among the flags up to 1880.

In 1880 came an inundation of enterprise in the shape of ditching, by which the sloughs were drained, and the flag growth lessened year by year, until now almost none are found. It was also noticed that the birds decreased in numbers.

In 1885 was the minimum of breeding birds, and in 1886 nests began to appear in unusual places, such as heavy grass, growths of weeds, and even the brush on the hilltops. Very few nests were seen in the lowlands; the preference seemed to be a sidehill. In 1888 nests were as frequent in the brush on the hilltops as in weeds or grass, and some were found in trees above six feet up.

Instead of the semi-pensile nests among the flags were nests built and placed in much the same manner as those of the Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*). The difference in material used now and formerly is no more than one would expect in going from a marsh to upland.

I am aware that it is considered no very great rarity among eastern collectors to find nests of this species in trees. But here the change has been decided. The migration was from marsh to upland, and the nest from basket to platform foundation.

When the brush and weeds disappear, as they surely will, where then will the Blackbirds build?

O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p. 186

POLYGAMY AMONG OSCINES.—A letter received from Prof. F. E. L. Beal, of the Iowa Agricultural College, gives some interesting data upon this subject, in the cases of *Agelaius phoeniceus* and *Sialia sialis*. Having often been struck with the numerical preponderance of female Marsh Blackbirds, Professor Beal made in the spring of 1881 special examination of a small piece of swamp in which he always found one male and three to seven females. For two weeks, during which the place was carefully watched, only one other male made his appearance upon the scene, and he was at once attacked and routed by the one in charge of the premises. This past spring Professor Beal found one male and two females domiciled on a small prairie slough. Both nests were discovered, each containing four eggs, and the course of events was watched until the young were fledged—the arrangement remaining always the same.

Elliott Coues.
Ball, N. & O. 6, Jan. 1868, p. 63.

fortis

Notes from Connecticut.

Agelaius phoeniceus fortis. North Haven, male adult, Dec. 25, 1901;
male juvenile and female juvenile, Jan. 10, 1902; male juvenile, Nov. 11,
1903.

Louis B. Bishop, New Haven, Conn.
Auk, XXIII, July, 1906, p. 345.

Sturnella
magna
~~& neglecta~~

Sturnella magna

1889

April 11¹* - 30⁴⁶* 1889. 2¹* - 5⁶* (Colls). 6¹* - 7³* - 8¹* - 10²* - 11³* - 13²* - 14⁵* - 16³* - 17¹* - 19³* - 21²* - 24²* - 25³* - 26²* - 27²* 1891

May 5³* - 14³* B. - 1889. 2¹* - 3²* - 4⁴* - 7³* - 15³* - 16³* - 19²* - 23¹* 29²* - 30²* - 31⁴* 1890 3²* 1891.

June 1²* - 3⁴* - 4¹* - 16¹* - 17²* - 20¹* - 21¹²* - 22¹²* 1889. 7⁴* - 5³* - 7³* - 8¹* - 10³* - 12¹* - 19²* - 21¹* 1890

July 17¹* 1889. 5²* (2*) - 6²* - 13¹⁵* (3*) - 28¹* - 2¹* - 3¹* - 30¹* - 31¹* - 16¹* - 18⁴* - 19²* - 20²* (2*) - 31²* - 1890

Dec. 5⁸* - 16¹⁵* 1889. 22¹* (2*) - 24¹²* (2*) (Faxon) - 1890

Jan. 10¹* (Faxon) 1890 8¹* (Faxon) 10¹* (2*) (C.R.) - 21¹* (C.R.) - 1893

Feb. 26¹* 1892

March 14¹* (3*) (C.) - 28¹* - 22¹* (3*) 1891 16¹* - 18²* - 20¹* - 26¹* - 28²* - 29⁴* - 30³* - 31²* Concord 1892

April 1⁴* - 3⁴* - 4²* - 5³* - 6²* - 8²* - 9¹* - 11¹* - 12¹* - 13²* - 14⁴* - 15²* - 17³* - 18²* - 19²* - 24²* - 25³* - 28¹* - 29³* Concord 1892

May 1¹* - 2³* - 3⁶* - 4²* - 5⁶* - 7⁸* - 8⁵* - 9⁵* - 10¹* - 11¹* - 12¹* - 13¹* - 14¹* - 15²* - 16⁴* - 17¹* - 19²* - 20³* - 21⁴* - 22²* - 25²* - 26³* - 27²* - 28²* - 29³* - 30²* " "

June 24¹⁵* (1*) - 25¹⁰* - 26⁴* - 28⁴⁰* (20*) - 29⁴* 1890

" 1²* - 2¹* - 5¹* - 6²* - 7²* - 8²* - 12¹* - 15²* - 18¹* - 20¹* - 21¹* - 23¹* Concord 1892.

July 1¹* - 2¹* - 3¹* - 4¹* - 5²* - 6²* - 7²* - 8²* - 10²* - 11²* - 12²* - 13²* - 14¹* - 15¹* - 16²* - 18²* - 20²* - 21²* - 22²* - 23¹* } Concord, 1892.

25¹* - 26¹* - 27²* - 28¹* - 29²* - 30¹* - 31¹*

Aug 2¹⁰* (2*) - 3²* - 10¹* - 17²⁰* 1890 1¹* - 2¹* - 3²* - 4¹* - 5¹* - 17²⁰* (20) - 28³* - 31¹* Concord 1892

May 3¹* - 10²* - 8⁸* - 9⁸* - 10¹* - 11¹* - 12¹⁰* - 17¹* - 19¹* - 20¹* - 22²* - 23³* - 28¹* - 31⁵* 1891.

Sept. 1¹* Concord - 1892

Oct. 8¹* - 7¹⁰* (14, 17 Nov.) - 16¹* - 17¹* 1891. 4¹* - 6³* (5) - 9³* - 12³* - 14⁷* - 17³* - 18²* - 19⁶* - 21⁴* - 24²* Concord, 1892 S. magna.

Nov. 14¹⁰* 1892.

Dec.

Sturnella magna

1893.

January 8¹ (Fox) - 10^④ - 21 (Belle) a birdy

February

March 18³ (Routen) - 27¹ (D.) - 26 (Fox) ^{Wendy}

April 1¹ 6³ 8¹ 11¹ 29¹ 30² Concord 30⁶ (Fox) -

May (N. Bedford) 10¹ - 11¹ - 14¹ (G. B. H.) 15¹ - 16¹ [18¹ ^{G. B. H.}] 19¹ - 20¹ - 21¹ - 22¹ - 29¹ - Concord.

June

Concord
29¹ (Stark farm)

July 7¹ Clamshell Hill - 12 (Clamshell H.) 14¹ (Clamshell H.) 20¹ (do.) 22¹ ④ - 24¹ ^{near Pen} ^{farm} - Concord

August

September

October

November

December

First Observance
17 Hoffmann.

1894.

January

February

March

April

May 1¹ ^{cd. N. Bedford} 4¹ ^{Barnstable} 5¹ 7¹ 18¹ 28¹ ^{Concord} ^{Miss Hope M.} ^{near R. R.} ^{station.}

June

July 18¹ ^{E. Watertown} ^{(Adams} ^{Place)} 25¹ ^{cd.} ^{Leaf} ② -

August 9¹ ^{cd. (Chas. Riv)}

September

October 12^⑤ 13^⑧ 18^① 19^⑤ 27 - Concord. ^③

November 2^① 11^① ^(Wm. Snow) ^{Noyes} -

S. magna.

Sturnella magna

K. = near Keyes farm.

- January C. Fresh P. marshes
17 (R. Hoffmann) 1895 Cambridge
22 (5) 24 (5) Flying over Fresh Pond. (5 numbered in 1886-87) (C.A. Bostwick) 1898 C. (Fresh P.)
8 (2) C. A. Bostwick. 1899
- February W. Adams field
27 (2) Geo. Deane 1898
- March Concord (Keyes farm) 1895
30 (2) 6 (17) C. Thomsen
11 (4) B. C. B. Frimingham
22 (4) H. B. Estlin
1897. 2 (1) B. Parry
15 (2) 16 (1) 17 (1) 19 (1) 20 (1) 21 (1) 22 (1) 23 (1) 24 (1) 25 (1) 26 (1) 27 (1) 28 (1) 29 (1) 30 (1) Concord 1898
- April Concord
3 (2) 4 (1) 6 (2) 7 (1) 15 (3) 17 (2) 18 (2) 19 (2) 20 (1) 21 (1) 22 (1) 23 (1) 24 (1) 25 (1) 26 (1) 27 (1) 28 (1) 29 (1) 30 (1) 1895
1 (1) (Keyes farm) 6 (1) (on isolated bush in middle of meadow) 10 (2) 13 (1) 14 (2) 15 (1) 17 (1) 18 (1) 19 (1) 20 (1) 21 (1) 22 (1) 24 (1) 25 (1) 26 (1) 27 (2) 28 (2) 29 (1) Concord 1896
4 (1) (Keyes farm) 6 (1) (Keyes farm) 7 (2) de 8 (2) de 12 (1) 18 (1) 21 (1) Concord, 1897. 10 (1) (Flint) 25 (2) (Flint) 27 (1) (Flint) Concord 1898
- May Concord
1 (2) 2 (1) 3 (1) 4 (1) 6 (2) 7 (1) 9 (2) 11 (1) 12 (1) 20 (1) (some at Keyes farm) 23 (2) 1895 3 (1) (at Moore farm) 1896 1 (1) (at Moore farm) 1897
6 (2) Adams Pt. 1897 8 (1) 9 (1) 12 (1) 28 (1) Concord, 1899.
- June Hyannis
16 (1) (at Hyannis) 17 (1) (at Hyannis) 1895 ch. 22 (1) 1897 Concord Holders Concord/Bancaster 1898 Concord
6 (2) 7 (1) 8 (2) 12 (1) 24 (1) 26 (1)
- October 6 (1) (at Hyannis) 8 (1) (at Hyannis) 16 (1) (at Hyannis) 18 (1) (at Hyannis) Concord 1895 22 (1) (at Hyannis) 24 (1) (at Hyannis) 1896
13 (2) (at Hyannis) 1897. 2 (1) 3 (1) 4 (1) 6 (1) 7 (1) 11 (1) Holders Concord. 1898 12 (1) 15 (1) 17 (1) 29 (1) 22 (1) 23 (1) Concord. 1899
- November ch. 7 (1) 1895
- December

S. magna.

Sturnella magna.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878. At Reedy Pond I shot one and Mr. Stephens two. We drove
Sept. 28. them into a meadow where they lay like Quail among the tall
grass.

Sturnella magna.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878. At Coskaty marsh we landed and I drove three Larks (S.
Sept. 30. magna) into a growth of tall grass and tramping them up shot
two of them.

Sturnella magna

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

April 30 Concord. Heard five different birds whistling in meadows along the river. One, late in the afternoon, uttered the peculiar twittering, shuffling flight song. Immediately after it ceased I copied him in hot pursuit of another bird which, from the way, I am very sure was a ♀. She rose in an irregular spiral course, doubling and twisting occasionally when her lover approached too near, to a height of perhaps 100 feet and then setting her wings sailed down into the meadow again the ♂ following and alighting near her. Flight song
♂ chasing ♀.

May 14 Belmont & Waltham. - Heard a ♂ whistling in the large meadows beyond the Fickey place in Waltham and three in Belmont, the first at the corner of School St. just below the Payson place, the second in Hittinger's meadow, the third in Payson Park. Distribution

June 1 Concord. - Heard one whistling and saw another flying. The 1st 1st song period is evidently over; now that the grass is tall and the Bobolinks nesting, one sees or hears but little of the Meadow Lark. Birds succeed one another like flowers. Late April and early May was the hey-day of the Lark, now the Bobolink reigns supreme in the meadows. Period over.

" 3 Brighton. - A ♂ singing on the Brighton marshes just across the Brighton bridge from Harvard Sq. Cambridge. Distribution

" 3 Wellesley Hills. One whistling in upland mowing field back of Morens Hill. "

" 4 E. Watertown. - One whistling on the job's ground on the Adams place, an old haunt. "

" 7 Belmont. - Payson reports several on the meadows N. of Hills Crossing. "

3

Sturnella magna.

1889 Mass.

June 16 Wayland. - The whistle of the ♂ varied from three to four notes at different times the whole lasting from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. I took it down as feer, per, seer or feer, per, pe, seer. It is long-drawn and very plaintive especially the "dying fall" ending.

" 20 Watertown. - Two pairs and perhaps an odd ♂ in the Adams field the ♂♂ whistling in the tops of the isolated oaks, elms & birches sprinkled about over the wide expanse of tall, waving grass. At sunset ~~both~~ pairs came to feed in a portion of the field where the grass had been lately cut. They were very wary & alert constantly raising their heads to look around & flying the moment I showed myself. Their gait was a hurried, irregular walk very like that of Agelaius.

Dec. 4-7 Marston's Mills. - Numerous haunting the bare, grassy hills along the edges of the salt marshes, in flocks of 4 or 5 to 8 or 10. Every evening, shortly after sunset, all the flocks in the neighborhood of the house where I was staying congregated on an extensive tract of perfectly level, rather oozy marsh covered with a scanty growth of short salt grass. The gunners told me that the birds have assembled here in autumn for years and, as they believe, to spend the night. I examined the place and found it literally covered with their droppings. The birds started up on every side as I landed going off singly but soon closing in together in a compact flock like Blackbirds and alighting on the other side of the river. There were perhaps 15 or 20 of them. They are less shy here than about Cambridge but still not easy to shoot. Wounded bird a wing-broken bird that I brought down did not attempt to hide until I had chased it some distance when it finally squatted in ^{the top} of grass _{in a tuft of grass}. 68

Sturnella magna

1890 Mass.

June 7 River Bank Marshes. - Three singing at different points along the edge of the great salt marshes, two near Oak Island. I think it probable that their nests were in fields of English grass near the borders of the marsh.

On salt marshes.

" 10 Weyland. - Saw a third seen & one heard. Singing fast declining

Song declining

1893

July

Cambridge. I saw four Meadow Larks on June 10 near the Cambridge Cemetery and a single bird was seen near Fresh Pond by Bolles on several occasions between the 15th & 22. The first half of the month was exceedingly cold with a good deal of snow. "Shooting & Fishing" for Feb. 2 contains a note to the effect that at Chatham the Larks have suffered badly and are half starved (p. 305).

Wintering

July 31

Feb 4

Marthas Vineyard. Mr. William Bangs spent three or four days searching for Heath Hens and went over a considerable part of the Vineyard very thoroughly without seeing a single Meadow Lark! (This was before the heavy snows came)

May

Cape Cod & Nantucket. - The Meadow Larks on the Cape were practically exterminated by the deep snows of last February. Mr. Bangs in April found only one bird alive at Chatham but picked up a dozen or more dead ones that had starved to death during the winter. In May Mr. Bangs & Mr. Miller spent several days at N. Fairs without seeing a single Lark but one was seen by them from the cars in N. Barnstable. On Nantucket they do not seem to have suffered much if at all for Mr. Miller found them there in about the usual numbers in April last.

Destruction
by our
winter

Massachusetts.

Sturnella magna. (No. 1)

1892.

- July 6. Concord. I passed nearly under a Meadow Lark which was sitting on the topmost spray of a gray birch calling pääp, pääp, pä-pä-pees the last three notes ringing out like the blast of a trumpet. At each utterance of this cry the bill was opened absurdly wide, the tips of the closed wings twitched nervously and the tail opened wide showing the white lateral feathers. The bird evidently had young in the tall grass just over the wall.
- July 8. Opposite the Burdick's a Meadow Lark anxious about her young-one of which I afterwards started from a newly sown field & which could fly well - called teliääp, teliä-äp-pi-i-i, teliääp-ipp-pi, or teliääp-ipp-pees occasionally chattering (t-t-t-t-t-t-i-i). These calls were similar to those noted on the 6th but are more carefully and correctly rendered here.
- July 10. The Meadow Larks were still in the field just beyond the Burdick's, flying nervously about alighting on the tops of the birches by the roadside, I noted the cries of the female thus: jeep a yääp; jeep-ipp and pees, er-pi-pees the last having a fine martial ring like a bugle call. There is a marked resemblance in the quality of voice to that of the European Starling. The song I rendered thus trien-tree; trien-tring; or trien-tring-tree.
- Aug. 17. Meadow Larks, also, were assembling to roost in this meadow. I saw one flock of ten and several

Massachusetts.

Sturnella magna (no. 2)

1892.

parties of from three or four to seven or eight arrive in quick succession all coming from the north and all alighting in the same place an open, dry spot where the grass has been cut and the "rowan" is now four or five inches high.

Oct. 4 I have not seen nor heard a Meadow Lark for nearly a month until this morning when, a little after sunrise, one uttered his plaintive "ah-en-mi" five or six times in quick succession, near our house, the sound coming to my ears through the open window as I lay in bed.

Nov 14 Concord As we were driving down we saw a flock of ten Meadow Larks in the fields just south of the poor farm. They alighted within 50 yards of the road and moved about very much like Quail walking and occasionally taking short, quick runs. The grass was too short to afford them any concealment but I noticed that without a single exception they turned their backs towards us whenever they stood erect just as the Leucodark does according to Chapman. Indeed I did not once see the yellow of the under parts although I watched them for several minutes during which time most of them were watching us. After a little I jumped over the fence and advanced towards them when they flew, three or four at a time and removed to the next field. One bird chased another in play, the two mounting high in air doubling & twisting, finally pitching

Massachusetts,

Sturnella magna (no 3)

1892.

down to the meadow again. Another, evidently an old male, alighted in the top of an apple tree and sang steadily for at least five minutes precisely as in spring, the tender, plaintive, whistle coming at the usual short intervals and spreading far and wide over the silent but still green fields I do not remember ever hearing a Lark sing thus in autumn before.

Sturnella magna

Concord, Mass.
April, 6. 1898.

Apr. 6

He also told me that he saw three Meadow Larks, Meadow
together on Washawtuck Hill this morning. It Larks
is encouraging to know that so many still
exist in Concord.

Concord, Mass.
April, 22. 1898.

Apr. 22

As I passed the Swinells and there were two of Meadow
to the meadows beyond I listened in vain for Larks
Meadow Larks. It is now just beyond gunshot. I had
nearly all of our Concord birds perished last winter
A Robin was singing and a Flicker thrumming.

Concord, Mass.
April, 29. 1898.

Apr. 29

Only one Meadow Lark to-day, a single whistling on Scarcer
the Pine Knoll. All the other regular haunts of this Meadow
species are now empty & deserted. I have not Larks
before found a bird over the Fortricks a day or two
farther down a walk.

Sturnella magna.

Concord, Mass.

1897. Scarcer than last year. Early in the month I noted two
April. birds, one on the Keyes farm, the other near the swimming
place. On May 1st I could find but one--just below Flint's
bridge.

Sturnella magna.

Concord, Mass.

1894. The Meadow Larks at Concord appear to be recovering from
Oct. 11 the terrible losses which they sustained during the severe
to
Nov. 21. winter of 1892-93. I heard them almost daily through the
first half of this October in the fields about the Keyes's, in
the Mill Brook river meadow, or on Great Meadow. Very prob-
ably they moved from one place to another but there were at
least eight birds in all for I counted that number together
on one occasion and on another saw five in one flock and three
in another. They sang freely and almost incessantly on warm
still days giving the usual spring notes but in peculiarly
soft, subdued and often warbling tones. Frequently three or
four birds would be singing at once their voices so inter-
mingling and at the same time supplementing each other as to
produce a continuous flow of sound, very sweet and musical in
its general effect. As a rule this singing was produced while
the birds were on the ground but once, rather early in the
morning, four or five of them were perched in the upper
branches of a large maple that stood on the bank of the river.
They seemed to be wholly absorbed in their own music and al-
lowed me to paddle directly under the tree and look at them
for some time before they took alarm and began to fly.

I saw or heard Meadow Larks on the Great Meadow usually
only near sunset or after it. They resort to this meadow to
roost and do not, I think, feed there.

Sturnella magna

1895 Vermont East Berkshire Co.
Jan. 6 St. Albans? (or East Berkshire?). Mrs. Kelly Hunt Woodworth of a writing Bradford Torrey from St. Albans Vt. under date Feb. 31/95 says: "The sixth of January a Meadow Lark was sent me - an elegant specimen complete in feathering. It had been for a week about a friend's kitchen door, hunting its meals, & roosting at night in some willow trees that overhung the piazza. What could have prompted them to kill the darling?" (Mrs. Woodworth lives at East Berkshire Vt. to the locality where this bird was taken is in hand sent)

Mass

June 16th Hyannis. - Great Island used to be (before 1893) a paradise for Meadow Larks but when I reached there on the evening of June 15th Mr. Coy told me that he had not seen a single bird there this year. I saw one next day, however, near the house and on the 17th heard one singing in the village of Hyannis. Dr. ~~Haws~~ Haws of Hyannis who has a large country practice & drives about the Cape a great deal says that Larks have been very scarce everywhere there since the winter of 1892-93 when so many perished. Mr. Bangs & I saw only one from the car windows in going to Provincetown & back last May. There were two birds singing in Wamsley the past Spring and at least three in Concord

Scarcity on Cape Cod.

1896 Mass. "I have just returned from a week in Berkshire" xxx
Dec. 29 Westfield & Westboro. "On my way back from Berkshire I saw from the car window one Meadow Lark near Westfield and three near Westboro. This seemed unusual to far from the coast". (Ralph Hoffmann letter Dec. 30, 1896)

Wentworth inland

Sturnella magna.

Concord, Mass.

Song.

1898. At sunrise (at the Keyes') the Meadow Lark gave me a
March 20. delightful serenade which lasted fifteen or twenty minutes.
He was very near - apparently on the lawn near the pagoda -
and I had a rare opportunity to study the various changes and
modulations of his song. These are the renderings that I not-
ed at the time: t'sit, tsao-tsit; tsào, tsit-tsìn; tsao-tsee;
tsào, tsee-tsee-e; tzeè, tzee-tzin; tzeè, ter-tzeè; tsee,
tser-tzeè. After he had flown to another and more distant
field I heard him give the flight song and for the first time
it reminded me of the song of the Skylark.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. Mrs Kettell tells me that there is a pair of Meadow Larks
June 18. in the fields between Huron Avenue and Vassal Lane. ~~in the~~
I have not heard of any in this favorite old haunt for the
past ten or twelve years but they have bred each season for
the past four or five years on the Tudor place a little be-
yond the Fresh Pond crossing a locality never frequented by
them in the days of my boyhood.

Concord, Mass.

1898. Song Sparrows and Meadow Larks in full song near the
Oct. 4. house early this morning.

Sturnella magna.

South Yarmouth, Mass.

Scarcity.

1899. I went to South Yarmouth on the afternoon of the 11th
Aug. 11-15. and returned on the morning of the 15th spending the three
intervening days with the Stones. -----

I saw only one Meadow Lark during my stay (and but two
or three during the journey from and to Boston).

Bird Notes from Toronto.—A male *Sturnella magna* was collected Feb. 21, 1881, by Mr. Jas. Helliwell, at Highland Creek, about fifteen miles east of Toronto. The bird was in fine plumage and in fairly good condition. He had his 'home' in a dense thicket in a deep ravine, through which ran a 'Spring Creek' (which did not freeze during the winter), about a mile from a barn-yard which he visited almost daily, feeding on sweepings and pickings from manure. The bird was carefully dissected but no wound or injury of any kind could be found. The gizzard contained a few small pieces of gravel, a few grains of oats, and pickings from cow dung. This is believed to be the first record of this species wintering north of Lake Ontario.

William Brodie, Toronto, Can.

Auk, V. April 1888. p. 211.

Notes.

Andrew Downs has just mounted a ♀ Meadow Lark, taken at Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia, Feb. 16th. A rare bird there.

O & O. XIV. Mar. 1889 p. 47

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, xxiv, Jan. 1907. p. 78.*

183. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK.—Common summer resident, March 16 to October 30; numerous winter records; breeds (May 2 to July 1).

Portland, Maine.

The Present Status of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) near Portland, Maine.— In 1882, in his 'Catalogue of Birds Found in the Vicinity of Portland, Maine,' Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown stated that this bird was a rare summer resident, oftenest seen in migrations. The extreme dates then given were April 22 and Nov. 3.

To-day the conditions are decidedly different, and while the increase of which I shall speak seems to have been somewhat general in the southwest quarter of the State, I shall confine my remarks strictly to the section embraced in Mr. Brown's paper of 1882, viz., the vicinity of Portland. I had been collecting several seasons in fields in which the bird is now regularly seen in some numbers without meeting a specimen until 1891, when I found and collected a lone specimen at Westbrook. In August of the same year, in fields I had regularly visited in the adjoining town of Gorham, two small flocks, one of five, and one of eight birds, were seen. From that time to the present, May, 1909, there has been a slow but positive increase and dispersal of the birds through the section. They are not only rather plentiful in certain Westbrook and Gorham fields, but are to be found in several places in the very outskirts of the city of Portland, and also in Falmouth and Scarborough.

The earliest date on which I have noted the bird's occurrence in spring is March 27. They have frequently shown a tendency to remain late in fall, having been recorded in November several years, in December twice, and in January once, in Westbrook. The winter just passed, 1908-09, a small flock actually wintered on the marshes back of Pine Point Beach in Scarborough, where they were watched with great interest by Mr. Walker, agent of the Pine Point R. R. station.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Maine.*

Aug 26, July-1909, p. 207-8.

Maine.

The Meadowlark in Maine, and Other Notes.— The Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) has arrived here and is breeding (June 15, 1909) on this side of the Penobscot. It is one of the group of Alleghanian birds which are steadily pushing their way eastward across what was formerly a forest portion of the State. The advance of these birds is curious and should have been studied much more closely than it has been so far. The important point is the determination of how long one of our north-and-south flowing rivers like the Kennebec and the Penobscot holds a species in check. They seem very reluctant to cross a stream like the Penobscot,

Seboois Lake, which tarried a day on an island and then departed, probably to Nova Scotia or northward. May 14, 15, 16, 17 I heard of Meadowlarks being seen. Just about a week later a small boy told me of finding a nest containing two eggs. He seemed to know the bird and gave a clear description of the nest and eggs. These eggs were taken by something, probably a boy, as no shells were left, and the child told me to-day that he had not seen the larks since. Last Saturday, however, June 12, my son discovered a nest with five eggs. Monday morning I went with him to photograph the nest. While we did not flush the old bird, there could be no doubt about the eggs being Meadowlark's. Both old birds, very shy indeed, were seen in the vicinity but would not come within a quarter of a mile of the nest. When we were a long way off, one of them took a flight of three fourths of a circle and dropped just behind the crest of the hill where the nest was, undoubtedly planning to run up to it stealthily. As we did not disturb the eggs and shall not visit the place again, there is a good chance for the young to hatch. (The nest reported from Hampden had well grown young on Sunday.) These young birds stand a good chance of growing up. Though in a field which will be mowed by machine after the Fourth, the nest is only two rods from the edge of a cow pasture where they would be perfectly safe. We are anxious to see the birds well established here and would regret having their attempt to breed defeated.

May 15, some thirteen miles east of Brewer, I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). The only other instance I ever heard of in this region was in 1878, when my father killed an immature bird on Machias waters far east of here.

About the same time a young man wrote me to identify for him a bird which he had seen on a fence near the Brewer line, in a thickly settled farming district, miles from any heavy woods. He described it as about the size of a small crow with a tuft of scarlet feathers "which stuck out like a boy's sealp look that will not lie down." I had no hesitation in calling it a Pileated Woodpecker, though the locality was extraordinary and the bird is rare, in our near vicinity, even in our densest and oldest woods.—
FANNIE HARDY ECKSTORM, Brewer, Maine.

Aug 26, Oct-1909⁹. D. 430, 21, 32.

here about a quarter of a mile wide. From five to fifteen years is required before species, well established in Bangor, come over here, just across the river, to breed. There have been Meadowlarks in Bangor for many years. Mr. Ora Knight states in his 'Birds of Maine' that he has known of their breeding in one place there as early as 1894. They have been exceedingly local, and Mr. Knight, in his book, which was published in 1908, speaks of knowing of only a few within a radius of forty miles — I speak from memory, but I think he says, five pairs. I have known of their breeding at the Hersey Farm, back of the city; at the Waterworks, two miles above the center; and this year in Hampden, five miles below the center. Last year my brother and father saw one on the Brewer side of the river, the first I had ever heard of being here. It was not seen again. If it bred at all, it was in a range of meadows so extensive that it was out of hearing from any travelled road.

This spring about the middle of May reports came to me from three quite separate localities of their being seen in Brewer. Also a fourth at Sebouis Lake, which tarried a day on an island and then departed, probably to Nova Scotia or northward. May 14, 15, 16, 17 I heard of Meadowlarks being seen. Just about a week later a small boy told me of finding a nest containing two eggs. He seemed to know the bird and gave a clear description of the nest and eggs. These eggs were taken by something, probably a boy, as no shells were left, and the child told me to-day that he had not seen the larks since. Last Saturday, however, June 12, my son discovered a nest with five eggs. Monday morning I went with him to photograph the nest. While we did not flush the old bird, there could be no doubt about the eggs being Meadowlark's. Both old birds, very shy indeed, were seen in the vicinity but would not come within a quarter of a mile of the nest. When we were a long way off, one of them took a flight of three fourths of a circle and dropped just behind the crest of the hill where the nest was, undoubtedly planning to run up to it stealthily. As we did not disturb the eggs and shall not visit the place again, there is a good chance for the young to hatch. (The nest reported from Hampden had well grown young on Sunday.) These young birds stand a good chance of growing up. Though in a field which will be mowed by machine after the Fourth, the nest is only two rods from the edge of a cow pasture where they would be perfectly safe. We are anxious to see the birds well established here and would regret having their attempt to breed defeated.

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FANNIE HARDY ECKSTORM, Brewer, Maine.

Auk 26, Oct-1908⁹. P. 430, 31, 32.

[48576]

Sturnella magna.

Rangeley, Maine.

Meadowlark taken in company with a pair of Horned Larks at Rangeley Maine. April 21st 1897. Ground was covered with snow here at this time. The Larks were feeding round an old heap of straw which had been dumped in a small field and quite close to a stable. Collected by Ernest L. Haley.

Rangeley Maine

[Data sent by Frazar & Critchley July, 1900, with the bird which is mounted and is 48576 in the Brewster Museum]

The Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) at Rangeley, Maine.—Although the Meadowlark has been found at several localities in northern New England the capture of a male at Rangeley, Maine, April 21, 1897, by Mr. Ernest L. Haley, is perhaps worth recording. The specimen, which is in high spring plumage, has been recently purchased for me by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar, to whom I am also indebted for the above data.—
WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.
Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 194.

The Grasshopper Sparrow in Maine, and Other Notes.

The Meadowlark comes regularly, though in small numbers. The present year, 1902, they have sung constantly in the field back of my home.—
C. H. MORRELL, Pittsfield, Me. Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 290.

The Wintering of Meadowlarks at Pine Point, Maine.—Referring to Mr. Arthur H. Norton's notice¹ of the wintering of Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) at Pine Point, it should be said that I have seen these birds there almost daily throughout the past three winters. Making their home in the thick woods near by, they obtained their food from the marsh. During the winter of 1907-08 a flock of eight stayed in the vicinity of the railroad station, being frequently seen on the adjacent marshes. The next winter the flock was increased to about twelve or fourteen birds. I saw them nearly every day all through the winter. In very cold weather, when the grasses and weeds of the marsh were buried beneath the snow, they would venture up to the railway station and pick up grain which had fallen from the freight cars. That they enjoyed their winter stay at Pine Point seems evident, for the past winter a flock of thirty-five or forty birds spent the cold months with us. In February, when the marsh was deeply covered with snow, I frequently walked out near the river, scraped off snow from small patches of grass and fed the larks with grain—cracked corn, oats and barley. They evidently relished this, for it was eagerly devoured. On warm days in January and February they often alighted on the telegraph wires and sang. One could scarcely realize then that it was midwinter.—
FRED. S. WALKER, Pine Point, Maine.

Auk 27. July-1910 p. 341.

Numbers of the Meadowlark still increasing in Maine.—In this part of Maine, at least, there continues to be an increase in the numbers of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). On Oct. 12, 1910, I found near Wincock's Neck, Scarborough, many more Meadowlarks than I had ever seen in one day before. Flock after flock was flushed, as I walked over the marshes, and there could not have been less than two hundred birds. This is a remarkable number in the case of a species which was uncommon a few years ago and was once a rarity.¹

About fifty Meadowlarks remained near Pine Point railroad station until late in November, 1910; but only about twenty passed the entire winter of 1910-1911 near here,—fewer than stayed through the previous winter.²—
F. S. WALKER, Pine Point, Maine.

¹ Norton, Auk, XXVI, pp. 307, 308.

² Auk, XXVII, p. 341.

Auk 28. Oct-1911 p. 486.

[Specimen sent with Museum birds
by Frazar & Crittley, Rangeley, Me.
July 1900]

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The Meadowlark comes regularly, though in small numbers. The present year, 1902, they have sung constantly in the field back of my home.—
C. H. MORRELL, *Pittsfield, Me.* *Auk*, XIX, July, 1902, p. 290.

The Wintering of Meadowlarks at Pine Point, Maine.—Referring to Mr. Arthur H. Norton's notice¹ of the wintering of Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) at Pine Point, it should be said that I have seen these birds there almost daily throughout the past three winters. Making their home in the thick woods near by, they obtained their food from the marsh. During the winter of 1907-08 a flock of eight stayed in the vicinity of the railroad station, being frequently seen on the adjacent marshes. The next winter the flock was increased to about twelve or fourteen birds. I saw them nearly every day all through the winter. In very cold weather, when the grasses and weeds of the marsh were buried beneath the snow, they would venture up to the railway station and pick up grain which had fallen from the freight cars. That they enjoyed their winter stay at Pine Point seems evident, for the past winter a flock of thirty-five or forty birds spent the cold months with us. In February, when the marsh was deeply covered with snow, I frequently walked out near the river, scraped off snow from small patches of grass and fed the larks with grain—cracked corn, oats and barley. They evidently relished this, for it was eagerly devoured. On warm days in January and February they often alighted on the telegraph wires and sang. One could scarcely realize then that it was midwinter.—
FRED. S. WALKER, *Pine Point, Maine.*

Auk 27. July-1910 p. 341.

Numbers of the Meadowlark still increasing in Maine.—In this part of Maine, at least, there continues to be an increase in the numbers of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). On Oct. 12, 1910, I found near Winnock's Neck, Scarborough, many more Meadowlarks than I had ever seen in one day before. Flock after flock was flushed, as I walked over the marshes, and there could not have been less than two hundred birds. This is a remarkable number in the case of a species which was uncommon a few years ago and was once a rarity.¹

About fifty Meadowlarks remained near Pine Point railroad station until late in November, 1910; but only about twenty passed the entire winter of 1910-1911 near here,—fewer than stayed through the previous winter.²—
F. S. WALKER, *Pine Point, Maine.*

¹ Norton, *Auk*, XXVI, pp. 307, 308.

² *Auk*, XXVII, p. 341.

Auk 28. Oct-1911 p. 486.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1871. (not in diary)

57. *Sturnella magna*. Aug. 2

Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 18-1889..

Sturnella magna 1 ♂ my, Academy field

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Meadow Lark, (*Sturnella magna*). One specimen
remained through the Winter of '74-'75.

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 14

North Conway, N. H.

1873 *Sturnella magna*

(not about the 10th)

C. E. Foxon tells me
that he & Tracy saw several
Meadow Lark in the
intervale along the Soad
River about Oct. 10, 1893.

THE MEADOW LARK (*Sturnella magna*) IN VERMONT IN WINTER.—
This species generally leaves for the south by the middle of October and
I have never, till now, noted them later than this. On December 9, 1882,
I shot a male in this vicinity, the ground at the time being covered with
three inches of snow. On dissection the crop was found to be filled with
an unrecognizable mass of insects, probably beetles.—F. H. KNOWLTON,
Middlebury, Vt. *Bull. N.O.C.*, 8, July, 1883, p. 182.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 311-312.

Bird Notes from St. Albans, Vermont.

and, what is still more surprising, an elegant Meadowlark was given me
the 6th of January last. It had been about the doors of a neighbor's
house hunting for food and resting at night in willow trees that over-
hung the piazza; its fearless confidence in humanity meeting the
usual fate.

Nelly Hart Woodworth
St. Albans, Vt.

Mass (Winchendon)

1887

Bailey showed me three skins. He considers it a rare bird here.

Sturnella magna

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

* = singing

April 7^{*} - 12^{*}

May 8^{*} - 9^{*} - 10^{*} - 11^{*} - 17^{*}

June 2^{*} - 3^{*} - 4^{*} - 6^{*} - 7^{*} - 16^{*} - 17^{*}

July 9^{*} - 10^{*} - 23^{*} - 24^{*} - 25^{*} - 30^{*} - 31^{*}

Aug. 1^{*} - 14^{*} - 17^{*}

!

Sturnella magna.

* singing

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Nov. 9^{*}

1888

April 12^{*} (Concord)

Oct. 27^{*} (Wayland)

Sturnella magna.

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888

Sturnella magna 14^{*} - 15¹⁰ - 16^{*}

Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

1. *Sturnella magna* July 4^{*} - 14^{*} - 21²⁰ - 28¹⁰

2. *Sturnella magna* Aug. 5^{*} Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

1889.

Sturnella magna

Wellesley, Mass.

March 13. Singing 18. 2.

S. W. Denton.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Sturnella magna (Linn.), Meadow Lark.
Resident, common, summer. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

1885: E. Mass. 1885. ^{Fresh Pond marshes} ^{Belchertown} ^{Sept. 30³⁰}
 1. *Sturnella magna*. - Jan. 1, 2, 31; Feb. 14; June 16¹⁸; July 12
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885
 25. *Sturnella magna*. - Three one nesting (Princeton hill)
 Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1886.
 36. *Sturnella magna*. Very common, ^{marshes} ^{marshes}
 Great Id. Mass. ~~1885~~ 1886.
 Nov. 21-23. 14. *Sturnella magna*. 21¹⁰⁰ - 22⁵⁰. In large flocks, sand hills

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Sturnella magna.

1885:

June 16 Saw and heard several at Concord, two on
 John Moore's meadow, the others in the north part of
 the town.
 " 18 Saw one in Waverley (Belmont) in the meadow at
 the foot of the hill beyond the engine house.
 July 1 One or two on the French's farm at Concord.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
 nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

31. *Sturnella magna*. * ^{Not common.}

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 389

Notes from Belchertown, Mass.
 J. W. Jackson

26 Saw one poor Lone Meadow Lark. | Jan. 26.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1893 p. 45

Sturnella magna

1895. Falmouth, Mass. * = ordinary bird
 † = flight "

July 12* 13* 14* 16* 17* fields west of
 house.
 " 19* 20[Ⓢ]* 21^{2ad}* 23* 24* 25¹* 29* 31*

[July 11² Wrenumet, Mass]

Unusual Winter Records.

Meadowlark. Several seen in Fresh Pond marshes until December 17.
 Arthur C. Comey, Cambridge.

Mass.
 Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 293.

Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

February 22, 1891. Saw five or six Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*).

Arch 28. Jan-1911. p. 118.

10
70

10
70

Jan

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Sturnella magna

June 3¹/_x 4¹²/_x Fairfield
 .. 5⁶/_x 6²/_x 7³/_x 8²/_x 9³/_x 10³/_x 11¹/_x } Saybrook
 " 12³/_x 13⁴/_x 14⁶/_x 15⁵/_x 16⁴/_x 18¹/_x }
 " 20¹/_x }
 " 21¹/_x Vernon
 " 22¹/_x 23³/_x 25¹/_x Andover

Abundant between Fairfield & Grand Haven and common about Saybrook but in both places we were told that they were comparatively scarce this year. Great numbers having perished last winter. Clark saw several which boys had found dead or dying along the roads. One seen at Vernon, near the Andover. Found very common in mowing fields, near the river. The birds were as at Saybrook although they were commonly mowed about thin bridges or grassy knolls in cultivated grass fields. They were much lighter in color than those seen in the winter.

Hartford Notes March 5

also Meadow Larks.
 Harry J. Gates.
 O. & O. VIII Jan. 1893. p. 8

20th, small flock of
 Meadow Larks; Chas. H. Noyes, Portland, Conn.
 O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1893. p. 31

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

81. *Sturnella magna* (Linn.) Swainson. MEADOW LARK.—Owing to the absence of suitable meadows this species is necessarily rare in the Adirondack region.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 230

Notes, Shelter Island, N. Y.
W. W. Worthington.

NOTES FROM SHELTER ISLAND, N. Y. The past Winter has been unusually severe, and the Spring thus far, cold and backward. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the Meadow Larks have remained all Winter.

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 80

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y. 38-39

On the Former Abundance of Certain Species in New York Id. (1820-50)
Lawrence

At the time the Robins were migrating, there would be frequently flocks of Meadow Larks (*Sturnella magna*) going south. I recollect in my younger days, that about three miles from the City Hall, on the east side of the Bloomingdale Road, were extensive pasture fields—about where 40th Street now is; in these the Larks accumulated in large numbers in October, and of course were much hunted by city gunners. /

Auk, 8, Apr. 1882 p. 308

Birds Tioga Co. N. Y. Alden Loring.

263. Meadow Lark. Common. Breeds. Arrives here from the south about the first week in April. The flight is regular with short intervals of soaring. The nest is placed on the ground under a tussock of grass, and has a canopy built over it, leaving just room enough to enter. The eggs are four in number. Mr. Samuels says, "Their color is generally nearly pure white, sometimes reddish-white with fine spots of reddish-brown diffused over the entire surface of some specimens, in others thinly scattered spots and blotches of two or three shades of brown and lilac." One brood only is reared in one season. The stomach of one of these birds which I opened contained a great quantity of small bugs.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 83

Winter Notes from Stephentown, N. Y.
Benjamin Hoag.

Meadow Larks noted February 2, and several times since.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 11

Notes on Some Winter Residents of
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

12. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOW LARK. — They remained at Fishkill, Dutchess Co., N. Y., during the winter of 1874-75. Found at various points along the Hudson in winter.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 36

Auk, VII. July, 1895, p. 313.
Rare Birds near Buffalo, New York.

Sturnella magna. MEADOWLARK.—A beautiful albino was shot at Crittenden, this county, on October 4, 1894, and was mounted by Mr. Grieb, taxidermist. The usual brown of the upper parts was of a pale buff color with the pattern of the feather markings indistinctly discernable, while the yellow on the breast was as pure as in an ordinary Lark.

James Savage, Buffalo, N. Y.

This spring I shot a male Meadow Lark with a peculiar shaped bill, the upper mandible being as much curved at the end as a Cormorant. Did any of you ever see the like?

A. H. Boies, Hudson, Michigan.

O. & O. IX, July, 1884, p. 90.

NOTES FROM FROGMORE, SOUTH CAROLINA. I have often observed the peculiar beak on the upper mandible of the Meadow Lark, think it occurs in very old individuals. Those which are resident here are very dark, almost melanic and usually have the hooked bill. *Walter Hoxie.*

O. & O. IX, Nov. 1884, p. 138.

Sea Isl. Notes, W. Hoxie, Frogmore, S. C.

The Meadow Lark, (263,) plentiful all Winter. A few breed in very dark plumage—occasionally with a hooked upper mandible.

O. & O. X, Mar. 1885, p. 46

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

albinistic

Several examples of *S. magna* have been noted.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Some albinos in the Museum of Phil. Academy.

Melanism is exemplified by a handsome specimen of the Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*) from New Jersey. The upper plumage is of the normal color, while the whole head, neck, and under parts are perfectly black. There is the faintest possible trace of yellow along the sides, and no white feathers in the tail, which is very dark above and below.—CHAS. H. TOWNSEND, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Bull. N. O. C. 8, April, 1883, p. 126.

Sturnella magna. MEADOW LARK.

Though the Meadow Lark gives us many months of its music, its song finds chief place in memory among the bird voices of earliest spring. Then flocks assemble in tall trees overlooking their favorite meadows, where the medley of their mingled songs is an agreeable change from the winter silence of the sere grass lands.

Often they are preceded in song only by the Bluebird and the Song Sparrow. I have known them to be singing by February 8 (1880); but they do not often anticipate early March, and when it happens that they are not present at the breaking up of winter of course their song is not to be heard until they put in an appearance, which may not be till early April.

I have no record of their singing later in the summer than the third week of August, and often they cease earlier.

In the autumn, however, they have their voices again. In 1880, flocks in full song were noted from October 10 to November 7, and all my data of other years is comprehended by these dates.

Auk, 2, July, 1886. p. 250-267.

Sturnella magna

^{Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 302-3.}
The Western Meadowlark at Racine, Wisc., etc.—In the April number of 'The Auk' (Vol. XII, p. 192) I find a communication from an observer in northern Michigan, if I remember rightly, recording the appearance there of the Western Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna neglecta* (Aud.).

It was with much interest that I heard this bird was at Racine, Wisc., where its note sounded strange enough, although I had long been familiar with it in California. Dr. Hoy, so well known in the Northwest, some years ago reported "this variety as occurring occasionally, near Racine."

In this connection I should like to make mention of one of our eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) which I saw last spring in Connecticut,

soaring in the air and singing like an English Skylark. I failed to identify him until he dropped down a little distance away and became the unmistakable, every-day performer of our fields.

G. S. Mead, Hingham,
Mass.

Here is a chapter on the meadow lark, written by a lady, from an indoor point of view—and, if the Listener is not mistaken, from an involuntary indoor point of view:

"Is there anything to a bird-lover more tantalizing than to have a favorite or, still worse, a much desired acquaintance persistently remain just beyond one's range of vision? For nearly an entire afternoon of shade and shower I have been listening to what one would call a full chorus of meadow-larks. The music seems to come from every point of the compass; yet, strive as I may, no glimpse of the singers can be obtained. As a matter of fact, the choir probably consists of a few birds only, for their song is so clear and penetrating that it seems to fill the air, to be on all sides at once and close at hand when really far away. An hour ago two birds at unequal distances were sing in alternation. With so great precision were their utterances timed that at first I believed one strain to be an echo of the other, but after a time one of the singers lost his reckoning, the more distant song coming first, thus proving that there were two birds.

"The lark's song is a clear, plaintive whistle, consisting of a few notes only, but these constantly varying. Translated into the humah dialect, it may be expressed by 'Oh please see me, me;' or, 'Please see me;' or again, 'Don't you see me? see me?' It is impossible to reconcile this apparent egotism with the modest and retiring disposition of the musician and the pathos of his tone; yet in spite of this trifling inconsistency, the song is unique and charming. It is an unbroken succession of curves, 'a single wave of melody,' such as might be expected to issue from the throat of a bird which bears upon his yellow breast a beautiful black crescent.

"Although for years familiar with this song, I have never really seen its author. One April day, an unknown bird suddenly appeared in one of the elms near by. Writing implements were instantly scattered in every direction and up flew the sash; yet just as the writer's eyes were fairly upon him away he flew, undulating through the air with his mate and alighting again too far away to be clearly seen, when he immediately began to pipe, 'Why—don't—you—see me?' The reply is not recorded!

"The larks are very shy birds, and although abundant in the low fields of the vicinity they rarely come near our buildings. This season they are unusually abundant and are frequently heard in the orchards.

"Judging by their plumage and song, it is difficult to realize that they are so nearly related to the bohohink. Yet besides being generically allied, these two species of starlings have many traits in common; and in peaceful comradeship they inhabit the meadows beautified by 'innocence' and the bird-foot violets, while in the neighboring swamps may be found their other cousins, the red-wings, whom Thoreau calls the 'epauletted officers' of the bird brigade. Like his congeners, the lark often sings upon the wing, and on his journeys from one meadow retreat to another, his clear note occasionally falls upon one's ear from above, like a sunbeam suddenly become audible. A song so melodious might well inspire a human poet, and one poem is so beautiful that it merits quotation in full.

"Hear the meadow lark sing low,
Sweet and low!

O'er the field and by the brook,
Into every shady nook,
Fast the plaintive echoes float
From the little quivering throat,
Till a new and tender grace
Fills the peaceful, lonely place.
So, my soul, learn thou to sing,
Daily sing!

Though unnoticed by thy place,
Clothed with only simple grace,
From the meadow land, thy home,
Let the tuneful echoes come,—

For if love inspire each note,
They will widen as they float;
Do thou well the singer's part,
There will be a listening heart."

[I have a set of the Meadowlark containing eggs of
the Cowbird, in my store
Y. B. W.
Q. & Q. XV. Feb. 1890. p. 31.

Sturnella magna.

Wintering in Mass.

Cambridge, Mass.
January 21, 1883

On the above date Arthur P. Chadbourne and Charles Lamb found four or five Meadow Larks on the frozen meadows near "Beach Island". They were excessively shy but Mr. Lamb killed an adult ♂ which was in perfect plumage the black crown being absolutely clear and the other markings as pronounced as in breeding birds.

Sturnella magna

Wintering in Conn.

Connecticut
Dec. 20, 1883

Passing through Conn. by the "Shou bin" I saw numbers of Meadow Larks to-day. They rose singly, or in small flocks, as the train passed & often alighted in plain view on the snow which was about 1/2 inches deep.

Winter Birds in South-eastern Mass.
Harry G. White

3. *The Meadow Lark.* This bird is common as a winter resident in some localities, while in others it is entirely wanting. During the months of December and January, but three birds of this species were seen in Taunton, namely, one on December 1st, and a pair on January 31st. At Naushon, they were somewhat more abundant, six having been recorded on January 28th, and one on the 30th. Single birds were also seen on February 3rd and 5th. In the immediate vicinity of the Fish Commission at Wood's Holl, it was not found during the winter, but several were usually to be seen about the salt marsh fields near Falmouth and also at various points along the shore between that town and the head of Buzzards Bay. I also saw a pair at Edgartown on one or two occasions in January and February.

The North Truro record is very complete, and probably the Marsh Quail is nowhere more abundant within the limit of the State during the three winter months, than on that part of Cape Cod which forms the forearm of Massachusetts, viz., from Monomoy to Provincetown.

Mr. Small's record has a showing of one hundred-six birds in December, they being present in numbers varying from two to twenty-five on no less than ten of the thirty-one days of that month. In January, they were seen on thirteen days in numbers varying from one to fourteen, and aggregating eighty-one. Meadow Larks were present on twenty of the twenty-eight days in February, and the sum of the numbers recorded amounts to fifty. The largest number seen on any one day was six and the minimum number was one. ^{might be aptly compared to an oasis in a} desert, in which many spend the winter, though surrounded on all sides by a practically uninhabitable country.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 82-83

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Sturnella magna.

1885.

Sept. 30

Saw a flock of about thirty on Rock Meadow, Belmont (the Willows). They were scattered about in the grass over an area of several acres and were very shy. Their yellow breasts gleamed in the sunlight. Several were whistling in a soft undertone. It is years since I have seen as many in this vicinity before.

Mass. (Hyannis)

Sturnella magna

1886

Nov. 21

Abundant on Great Island on the rolling grassy hills, going in flocks of ten to thirty. Excessively shy usually starting 100 yds or more away. At sunset fully 100 assembled on the salt marsh, a few singing feebly. As twilight gathered they flew, a few at a time, into a tract of dense beach grass. When it was nearly dark I went in and flushed them. They rose like Quail, a dozen or more at once, & flew several hundred yds. dropping again into the grass. They lay well here.

Dear Boston.
Please return
this after reading.
I have been writing
on back in
to read by
was of 5000
1000

240 BEACON STREET.

March 31. 1893

Dear Mr. Brewster

I was at Hyannis
the week beginning March
16th - as you know there
are usually a lot of
meadow larks that
breed on the Island and
are resident there spending
the winter on the big salt
marsh about the middle
of the Island. Last year
at the same season there

26. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK.—Not rare in the interval meadows of Sheefield.

1199. *Migrating Meadow Larks*. By J. H. D. S. *Ibid.*, No. 26. Jan. 20. pp. 503-504. For & Stream, Vol. XXVII

1308. *Where do Meadow Larks Winter?* By L. *Ibid.*, No. 6, Mch. 3, p. 106. For. & Stream, Vol. XXVIII

The *Oologist*, 1599. *Two-storied Nests of the Meadow Lark*. By Lorie P. Akers. *Ibid.*, p. 41. *Ann.*, V11, Jan. 1890, p. 84.

Young *Oologist*, 1551. *Meadow Larks in Winter*. By Thomas McD. P[otter]. *Ibid.*, *Ann.*, V11, Jan. 1890, p. 41.

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were about 50 birds. they were always on the marsh and kept in a loose straggling flock. This year there was only one bird alive - I started him many times and I am sure it was always the same bird.

While I was setting mouse traps and poking round in the beach grass and bushes. I found in different places on the Island 14 dead meadow larks - they were all

died up and had been dead some time - I suppose they succumbed to the severe winter

I thought this might interest you.

I saw fewer ducks of all sorts than ever before.

Mrs. Lucy
Cutnam Bangs.

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Young *Oologist*, 1551. *Meadow Larks in Winter*. By T[homas] McD. P[otter]. *Ibid.*, *Ank*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 82.

Auk, XV, Oct., 1898, p. 333.

Sturnella magna neglecta, *etc.* in
Bristol Co., Mass.

On April 9, of this year (1898), a Western Meadowlark made a visit of a few days in the fields not far from my home. The bird was first seen by an acquaintance, who asked "what bird is it that resembles a Meadowlark in form and color, larger and darker possibly than the Meadowlark but with a wonderfully beautiful song." This bird remained in the same locality for four days, showing no signs of fear and offering an excellent opportunity for one to observe its habits. I was unable to shoot the bird, but identity is beyond all doubt, the song alone being sufficient to remove all queries on that score.—BRADFORD ALEXANDER SCUDDER, Taunton, Mass.

*Icterus
spurius*

Icterus spurius.

1890 Mass.

May 30 Wayland. - An immature ♂ with black throat but green wings & tail & yellow under parts singing in an elm by a barn near the lower bridge. He would sing three or four times then fly out of sight over the open fields but always return to his elm again in a few minutes. The beginning of his song was exceedingly close to that of a Purple Finch for which, indeed, I at first mistook it.

June 1 The same bird (doubtless) singing about 200 yds. from the elm where we heard him on the 30th ult.

" 10 Visited the above locality & searched & listened an hour or more without finding this Oriole again.

1891

June 3 North Ferris. - A nest of the typical form, shape and construction, nesting composed mainly of fine green grasses interwoven, and supported among the twigs of a silver-leaved poplar near the end of a long, upright branch, about 35 feet above the ground was found by Mr. Miller and myself within a few rods of the house of Mr. W. W. Small on the afternoon of May 31. During the next three days we watched it closely. No bird was seen to visit it but a male Baltimore Oriole sang frequently in the tree. Several times each day I thought I caught the song of an Orchard Oriole in the distance. On the morning of June 3 this suspicion was confirmed for a male Orchard Oriole came into the tree and sang gloriously five or six times in succession. I did not get a sight at him but judging from the sound he must have perched within a yard or two of the nest. I have no evidence besides this and the character of the nest itself that the latter belonged to the species last named.

Massachusetts.

Icterus spurius.

1892.

June 11. Cambridge to Concord. Near the Trickey place in Waltham, in heart of the worm devastated orchard country I heard an Orchard Oriole sing once in an elm beneath which I was passing. I at once got out of the buggy and presently saw the bird a very plain-colored "immature" male with olive brown wings + tail and only a small patch of black on the throat. It did not sing again and finally started on a long flight over the open fields.

Icterus spurius.

Cambridge, Mass.

1894. In Cambridge Cemetery (which I visited late this after-
May 30. noon) the most interesting observation which I made was the
finding of a pair of Orchard Orioles which acted as if they
had a nest in one of the wild apple trees near the southern
end of the knoll beyond the creek on the Coolidge farm. I saw
the female twice in the Cemetery, once alone in a willow on
the edge of the marsh, once with the male in a rum cherry.
On both occasions she flew back to the wild apple on the knoll.
The male was an adult in rich chestnut and black plumage. He
did not sing but both he and the female gave the Black-^{bird}-like
chatter repeatedly.

Icterus spurius

1894. Mass.

June 13 Middlesex Co. This seems to be an Orchard Oriole "year" for this region for no less than five male birds have settled within a few miles of Cambridge.

The first, an immature male, was discovered by Foxon at Mystic Pond in Arlington May 9th. He has sung in the same spot ever since. On June 12th Foxon found the nest. It was in an apple tree and had young which both parents were feeding.

The second male was first heard by Foxon and me on the morning of May 16 singing in one elm at the east end of Great Meadows, East Lexington. He afterwards moved to an orchard near the Station where he has sung ever since. He also is immature. No female has been seen with him.

No. 3 is a fine adult male which I saw first on May 30th and again June 1st in and near some wild apple trees at the base of the Knoll north-east of Cambridge Country on the Joseph Coolidge farm. On the first occasion he was accompanied by his mate. It was cloudy & windy at the time & the male did not sing. Both birds chattered (like young Cowbirds) & cooed. They visited a rum cherry repeatedly & appeared to be eating some tent caterpillars there. The ♀ was very tame, the male shy. On the evening of June 1 Purdie & I found him in full song. He is a superb performer, one of the finest I ever heard. He gives parts of his song both ways with rare effect. It ends regularly with a long drawn plaintive note much like that of the Wood Pewee.

Foxon visited him on the 12th & found him singing. He also found a fourth male, a Chestnut & Black bird, singing in an orchard on Coolidge Avenue behind Mt. Auburn

Icterus spurius

1894. Mass.

June 13 Middlesex Co. - just east of the hollow where Arsenal
(no 2) Brook flows under the Causeway at the outlet to
the little artificial pond.

The fifth bird, a dull greenish & black fellow, I
heard this evening singing freely & copiously in
an apple tree in the pasture just north of
Mrs. Smith's pines on Fayerweather Street. He seemed
to be rather shy & when I approached flew across
the Avenue to the orchard on Southview Avenue
where he resumed his serenade. He belongs to the
Fox Sparrow type of singers.

1895

May

Middlesex County. Orchard Orioles appeared again this year in several
of the localities where we found them last season. The first was
seen by Faxon May 9th at Arlington in an orchard where a pair
bred last year. In 1894 the ♂ of this pair was in immature dress
but this season he wore the full black & chestnut living. Before the
same bird had attained the fully mature plumage & the ♀ had
mated again. On May 10 Faxon noted two males in Arlington.
I ~~found~~^{saw} one on the 14th at Milton Hill (a new locality) and
on the 26th found a pair in Cambridge on the Joseph Coolidge
farm exactly where the pair mated last year. These are the only
notes I have for 1896 but Faxon and I were away during most
of the season & hence we did not make a very thorough search.

1896 I was absent (in northern New England) from May 9th to July 20. But
Faxon tells me that he visited all the localities in Arlington
& Cambridge where Orchard Orioles bred in 1894 or 1895 and that
he was unable this year to find a single bird.

Icterus spurius.

Concord, Mass.

1897. As William Brewster and I were rowing on Concord River
June 22. to-day, in the morning, we heard an Orchard Oriole singing in
a clump of trees on the bank, about half way down to Ball's
Hill from the Buttricks. The notes much resembled those of a
Purple Finch. The bird was shy and not disposed to show him-
self. However we feel very sure that we saw him once fly out
and light on an exposed branch. If so, he was an immature
bird. On our return up the river in the afternoon, the Oriole
was singing in the same spot, this time uttering his more
oriole-like notes. He is doubtless nesting close by, for
otherwise he would hardly have been found in the same place
so long.

Walter Deane.

ORCHARD ORIOLES.—W. E. Saunders in Canadian Sportsman states that Orchard Orioles are very common in Kent Co., and not rare in London, Ontario, he knows nothing of them further east.
O. & O. VII. Dec. 16. 1882. p. 188.

Bird Notes from Toronto.

A male *Icterus spurius* was collected May 13, 1887, while pursuing insects through willow blossoms, just east of the city limits. Believed to be the first authentic record of the occurrence of this bird at Toronto.

William Brodie, Toronto, Can.
Auk, V. April 1888. p. 211.

Orchard Oriole at Nova Scotia.

A ♀ specimen of the Orchard Oriole was taken at Shut-in Island, Nova Scotia, on September 6th, by myself. *Harry Austen.*

C. & O. 15. Oct. 1890. p. 157

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James S. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, x x 14, Jan., 1907, p. 78.*

184. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Possibly a very rare summer resident; there are about a dozen records, distributed over a long period of years, nearly all in May; Mr. J. Hughes Samuel took an immature male May 20, 1900, and on July 5, observed a pair breeding at Island Park.

The Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) in Western Vermont.—The occurrence of birds beyond their natural or normal habitat is always of interest, since from a study of these occurrences and their causes many facts in regard to geographical distribution are brought out. On June 1, 1883, I had the pleasure of taking two specimens of that rather southern species, the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), at Middlebury, Vermont. They were taken on the campus of Middlebury College, and are now in the College Museum. They were both males, one being in the perfect plumage of the adult, the other in the immature dress of the young bird. When shot they were skipping about in the branches of a maple, and a diligent search failed to reveal others of the species. So far as I am able to ascertain, this is the first record of the occurrence of this species in this State.—F. H. KNOWLTON, *National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Auk, I, Oct., 1884, p. 390.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

May 28 ^{8 mi}

June 7 ^{8 mi} singing at Wayland. - 17 ^{8 mi} Wayland

Icterus spurius

* singing

Icterus spurius.

Concord, Mass.

1893. At about 10 A.M. I heard an Orchard Oriole sing five or six times in an apple tree near the house but although I got very near him and walked around the tree I did not get a sight at him. He is a fine singer.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Icterus spurius (Linn.), Orchard Oriole.
Summer resident, very rare. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Cy, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

27. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Three or four, in full song, in Sheffield. A male, in second-year plumage, seen in Pittsfield, June 27.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 44

Icterus spurius.

Worcester, Mass

(one ♂) May 28, 1905.
A. C. Comey.

1905, 1906 p. 420.

1894

Icterus spurius

Arlington,
Mass.

May

In apple tree, near Mystic St. Nest
in Mus. Comp. Zool. no. 2214.

like above from Dr. W. T. Faxon -

The Icterus spurius came to its breed-
ing ground, that is, the male did, May
9, 1894. He was in the yellow phase of
plumage. Later I found the nest in
an apple tree + watched the old birds
feeding the young, &c. On my return
from an outing in June, I found the
nest in such good condition after
the death of the young that
I secured it + put it into the
Museum collection to
check the breeding of this bird
in Arlington. [Arlington, July 19/903
W. T. Faxon.]

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Icterus spurius

June 3 $3\frac{3}{8}$ nest - 4 eggs - 4 eggs - 4 eggs } Fairfield
" 5'x 6'x 7'x 8'x 9'x 10'x 11'x } Saybrook
12'x 13'x 14'x 15'x 18'x 20'x }

About as numerous as the Baltimore in the region about Fairfield but much less so at Saybrook where Clark says that they have been diminishing rapidly the past ten years owing, he thinks, to the fact that a good many are shot each summer because of their depredation on the green peas which they obtain by splitting open the pods in the woods of the Baltimore. They inhabit apple orchards almost exclusively. The song varied much with different birds with some closely resembling the Fox Sparrow, with others the Purple Finch's. It could always be distinguished from that of the latter however by the opening notes. An occasional bird sang much like a Baltimore. The Orchard Oriole occasionally sings on wing flying very slowly on a horizontal plane with legs very bent. Both sexes utter a Bankbird-like chirp and a double note precisely like a breeding Towhee's, nest at Fairfield in an apple tree 4 eggs, June 3rd.
I spurius was not seen by us as either summer or autumn.

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 11, *Icterus spurius*, (506). Orchard Oriole.

O. & O. XI. Aug. 1886. p. 125

Oneida Co. N. Y. Egbert Bagg.

For the past years work I am able to add two birds to our local list, one of which is

the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), a male of which bird, in the third year, I had the pleasure of watching for quite a long time, both with the naked eye and with the field glass, on May 15, on a Sunday afternoon, when guns were left at home. However, with a bird of such marked plumage there could be no mistake, and the record is as good as possible without taking the bird.

O and O. XIII. April, 1888. p. 58.

Oneida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg

Icterus spurius.—A male of the third year was seen near Bear Pond, Herkimer Co., May 15, 1887. Unfortunately, as it was on Sunday and no gun was at hand, the bird was not secured, but there is no doubt of the identification, as he was watched for some time, both with a field glass and with the naked eye, and every mark was plainly seen.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 230

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence
in Orleans Co., N. Y.

Icterus spurius.—ORCHARD ORIOLE.—“Several from gulch near Holley, in the spring of 1876” (David Bruce). “A pair (♂ and ♀) brought me in June, 1896 (first week) shot near Gaines, possibly would have bred” (Ernest H. Short). I have in my collection a typical nest of this species, taken about August 1, 1898, at Lakeside Park, by Mr. J. L. Davison of Lockport. A tiny bit of egg-shell found hidden beneath the lining of the nest, gave evidence of its occupancy during the past season.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6

Neil F. Posson, Medina, N. Y.

Yates Co. N. Y.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*).—While at a farm house in the country near Branchport, May 6, 1903, I heard a bird note that was new to me and, following it up, I soon saw an Orchard Oriole in a cherry tree in the yard. As it stayed around for some time I had a good chance to study it and I am absolutely sure that I identified it correctly. I know of but one other record of this bird in Yates County. James Flahive has a mounted female in his collection that he shot in his yard in Penn Yan in 187-.

Auk 27. Apr-1910 p. 218.

REMARKABLE PLUMAGE OF THE ORCHARD ORIOLE.—There is in the collection here a very curiously marked specimen of the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) from Columbia, Pa. It is evidently a male bird in the transition stage of plumage from young to that of the adult. Young males of this species usually exhibit "confused characters of both sexes," but in this case the male plumage is confined to the right side of the bird, and the female plumage to the left side, the two colorations uniting on median lines above and below. So distinctly is this peculiarity marked, that a bilateral section of the bird would divide the phases about equally. The left side, however, shows very slight traces of black and chestnut, yet not so distinct as to lessen the general yellowish-olive appearance of the female. There is more of the white on the coverts of the left wing than usual.—CHARLES H. TOWNSEND, *Acad. Nat. Science, Philadelphia, Pa.* Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 181.

NY.

1884

May 21. Heard a male singing in
an orchard on the Fayson Place.
Heard it distinctly, unmistakably,
song as in the south.

Belmont, Mass.

n. Concord)

Icterus Spurius

28 1887

A ♂ singing in the white maples on
the banks of Concord River this evening.
He was restless and they taking long
flights and working rapidly down stream.
I got one fair shot at him and made
him out to be an immature bird. His song
differed slightly from that of the southern
(S. Carolina) bird and was less fine.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Icterus spurius. ORCHARD ORIOLE.

We are never long left unaware of the advent among us of this active bird, for its rapid rollicking song bears a signal part in the repletion of bird voices which fill the morning hours in the early days of May. True to its tropical traditions it fairly revels in the hottest weather, and it may be heard singing with unabated hilarity all through those excessively hot days that often come suddenly upon us at the end of May or early in June.

The immature male, in the yellowish, black-throated plumage, sings as enthusiastically as his more richly attired compeers, and is often noisy with the earliest arrivals.

Singing begins to decline in July, and my record usually closes shortly after the middle of the month, sometimes barely reaching that point. But, again, songs may be scattered sparingly along till August, and I have one record of imperfect song-notes from an adult male on August 11. My record of latest songs is as follows: 1874, July 28; 1876, July 30; 1878, July 11, 17, 19, and imperfect song-notes August 11; 1880, July 11 and 18; 1881, before the 17th; 1882, July 25; 1883, July 18. Records of the singing of immatures plumaged birds run to July 10.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 251.

Widdowson Co., Mass.

Icterus spurius

4

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Heard it distinctly, unmistakably,
song as in the south.

Mass. Concord)

Icterus spurius

MAY 28 1887

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Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 251.

Icterus spurius

1884

Charleston, South Carolina

April 16 A general arrival, males singing everywhere. Saw only adult ♂.

April 19. Shot an im. ♂.

" 23. Abundant. The ♂ has in addition to its exquisite, flowing, Fox-Sparrow like song a measured strain of separate notes closely like that of I. Baltimore. These Orioles feed much at the ends of the branches using the sharp bill like I. Baltimore. It is one of the most persistent singers in the South.

May 3. Saw a ♀ building in a streamer of Hillandria 40 ft. up in sweet gum.

Charleston, S.C.

Icterus spurius

1885

May 17

All things considered I think this bird is the finest singer in the South. Its ordinary song is a rapid and deliciously sweet warble as clear in tone as the sound of falling water. It has also a measured song closely resembling that of I. Baltimore ^{but higher & sharper} each note uttered separately with a pause of several seconds before another succeeds. It has the chatter of I. Baltimore also but its ordinary call note resembles closely that of Agelaius.

May 8. Now the the migration is
an on the migration is
actually outwards. The
adult birds. They sing, have
I heard in the pt. They sing
fully as well as the adults.
I often hear the (particular)
like song now. It is frequently
alternated with the other by
the same bird. These birds
are found chiefly about houses
but also in oak woods. They
do not frequent other
woods or hummocks.

Charleston, S.C.

Icterus spurius

1885

May 17

All things considered I think this
bird is the finest singer in the South.
Its ordinary song is a rapid and
deliciously sweet warble as clear in tone
as the sound of falling water. It has
also a measured song, closely resembling
that of *I. baltimore* ^{but higher & shriller} each note uttered
separately with a pause of several seconds
before another succeeds. It has the
chatter of *I. baltimore* also but its ordinary
call note resembles closely that of *Agelaius*

Oriole's Nests.

Icterus spurius (?)

Canton
Waverly, Mass.

While I think of it I must tell you about the Oriole's nests that I saw in Canton last November. Two were in apple-trees and two in white oaks (within a small area), eligible sites in elms were near at hand. I wondered whether a pair or two of Orchard Orioles were not domiciled there in the summer.

Walter Faxon (letter January 13, 1891).

No. Eggs in Set. O.S. Brimley

Orchard Oriole. Putting this year's experience to that of former years makes me think the set is more often four than five.

O. & O. XVI, Jan, 1891. p. 9

No. Eggs in Set- O.S. Brimley

Orchard Oriole. Standard set, five. Variation, four to five.

O. & O. 16, Oct, 1890. p. 146

Nesting Habits of Texas Birds.
H. P. Atwater, London, Ontario.

Orchard Oriole, (*Icterus spurius*). Hang their nests on the extremities of top limbs of mesquite trees; are common. First eggs taken May 13th, 1884; incubation commenced.

O. & O. XII, Aug. 1887 p. 123-124

one set of Orchard Oriole,
August Eggs - J. M. W. Noyes,
Conn. O. & O. VII. Oct. 1882. p. 163.

Mr. Geo. H. Ragsdale, Gainesville, Texas, sends us a double nest, about which he writes as follows: "The two nests sent last week in the bunch of mistletoe I take to be those of the Orchard Oriole and Lark Finch, the latter built in and on the former, probably after the Orioles had vacated. The nests were placed in a Black Jack tree thirty feet high."—*Random Notes*.

O. & O. X. Aug. 1885. p. 127.

Orchard Oriole. Quincy Mass. June 2/94 Nest & 5 eggs
(Foster & Brewster)
I shot but not recovered.

SNOWDON HOWLAND sends replies on "Wanted to Know." He says he has whistled in all the subscribers he can, and he has done well. Thinks the Orchard Oriole uses green material because it is easier to work. It is not because it is easier to work but because it can be worked without breaking. The nest could not be built from dry material. Straw braiders understand this fully and keep wetting the straw as they work. O. & O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p. 16.

The Birds of Long Point.

But sea-wrack enters into the composition of no other kind of nests if we bar Terns, Sandpipers, Osprey and Crows. The Orchard Oriole's nests here are on the whole the showiest bird-homes I know of. Nests of this species from Florida, with Spanish moss effects, and from Texas, taken by Mr. Geo. B. Sennett, are before me, but are not comparable in beauty to the northern examples. In addition to the salmon-colored lining and peculiar yellow grass exterior, they are placed in the heart of the biggest bunches of lichen with which they are interwoven and festooned.

J. M. W.
Noyes
Conn.

O. & O. XVI. Apr. 1891. p. 59-60.

A STRANGE PREDICAMENT.—Having seen a strange bird fly down into some long grass I walked up to "flush" it. I found an Orchard Oriole, which was so embarrassed by the tall, thick grass that he could not get free enough play for his wings to fly up. Less frightened than might be expected, he made his way along to my companion's foot, scrambled up to his knee, and then took flight with ease.—H. D. Minot, Boston, Mass. O. & O. VII. Aug. 1882. p. 147

Young Ool. 1526. Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). By T. D. Perry. *Ibid.*, p. 38. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 61.

The Oologist. 1596. *Icterus spurius*—Eastern Race. By J. M. W. [=C. L. Rawson]. *Ibid.*, No. 3, March, 1888, pp. 37-38.—In Connecticut. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 44.

Rare and Curious Birds' Nests.

Icterus spurius, of the sub-family of Orioles, constructs a truly characteristic nest, pouch-shaped in form, and either pensive or built upon a branch. Soft and flexible grasses, neatly and compactly woven together, constitute its outer fabric, while within there may exist wool, either vegetal or animal, or a lining of fine grasses mixed with horse-hairs. The handsomest nest I have ever seen was found by Richard Christ, in the vicinity of Nazareth, Pa., in the season of 1883. It is of the usual size, being five inches in height, and three in external diameter, but different from the typical form in the materials of composition. Instead of the leaves of grasses, which one naturally expects to see in such structures, this was exclusively built of the stems and heads of a species of gramineous plant remarkable for its golden brightness in a state of dryness.

A more remarkable nest of this Oriole was found built upon a few small branches of a Maple, at an elevation of nearly thirty feet from the ground. It is a double affair, composed of long, flexible grasses, and securely fastened to its support. The larger nest is inversely sub-conical, while the smaller, which is joined to the other by ribbons of grass, is somewhat similarly shaped, but less compact in structure. A circular opening, one inch in diameter, is a

noticeable feature of the latter. That this additional structure served some purpose cannot be questioned. I am inclined to think that it was constructed with the view of accommodating either parent while the other was sitting. The aperture alluded to served, doubtless, for the head of the non-sitting bird, who, from this position, looking away from the main building, could, like a sentry upon an outpost, detect with comparative ease and readiness the approach of enemies.

Prof. Thomas G. Sentry.

O. & O. X. July. 1885. p. 112

galbula

Icterus galbula.

1889

May 8 (Jenny) - 9⁵ - 10¹² - 11⁶ - 12² - 13² - 14¹⁵ - 16² - 17⁵ - 20¹⁵ - 25³ - 29⁵ - 30² May 7² Durham 1889.

June 1⁶ - 2¹ - 3² - 4⁵ - 6¹ - 9¹ - 16² - 20⁶ - 21² - 22¹⁰ - 23¹ 1889.

July 5¹ - 6¹ - 8¹ - 19 (Morton's woods) - 30¹ - 31¹ 1889.

Aug 1⁶ - 2⁶ - 5¹ - 6¹ - 7¹ - 8¹ - 9¹ - 10¹ - 12¹ - 13¹ - 14¹ - 16¹ - 17¹ - 18¹ - 20¹ - 23¹ - 27¹ 1889.

May 3 (3rd) - 4¹ - 7² - 9² - 10¹ - 13² - 14² - 16⁵ - 16¹ - 19¹ - 21² - 23² - 24⁴ - 25⁴ - 26¹ Cambridge May 1 (Wesley) 1890

" 27³ - 30¹ - 31¹ Brookline 1890

" 3 (C. E. Taylor) - 4 (W. Taylor) - 9 (Dus.) - 10 (B. 3rd) - 15² - 19¹ - 20¹ - 22² - 23⁷ - 24¹ - 25³ - 26⁶ - 28¹⁰ - 31² 1891

" 9 Concord 1893

" 11² - 12² - 13³ - 14¹⁰ - 15⁶ - 16¹ - 17⁶ - 20² - 21⁵ - 22² - 23³ - 24⁴ - 25⁴ - 28³ - 29² - 30² - 31³ Concord 1892

June 9² - 10¹ - 11⁴ - 12¹ - 13¹ - 14⁶ - 15³ - 16³ - 17³ - 18¹ - 19¹ - 20¹ - 21¹ - 22¹ - 23¹ - 24¹ - 25¹ - 26³ - 27² - 28¹ - 29¹ - 30¹ - 31¹ Concord 1893

June 1⁶ - 2⁴ - 3¹ - 5⁴ - 7¹ - 7¹ - 8⁶ - 10¹⁰ - 11¹ - 12⁴ - 13¹ - 14¹ - 15² - 17¹ - 18⁴ - 19⁴ - 20³ - 21³ - 22⁴ - 23² - 30¹ Concord 1892

Concord 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 1893

July 8¹ - 12¹ - 27¹ - 31¹ 1890

1³ - 2³ - 3⁴ - 5⁴ - 6¹ - 7⁸ - 8⁶ - 9¹⁰ - 11¹² - 14² - 15² - 18² - 20³ - 23² - 26¹ - 30¹ Concord 1892

2-3-4-5-6-7¹ - 11-12-13¹ - 14² - 15-16-17¹ - 18 (Cherry tree) 24² - 30 Oak woods near Estabrook place - Concord 1893.

Aug. 8¹ - 9¹ - 11¹ - 14² - 15¹ - 19¹ - 20¹ - 21¹ - 22¹ - 26¹ 1890

" 12¹ - 13¹ - 15² - 18¹ - 20¹ - 21¹ - 29¹ - 24¹ - 28² (river) - 29¹ (Higgin) - 30¹ (river) Concord 1892

" 23¹ - 4¹ (over at) - 10 (Ball's H. woods) - 11 (Daybreak) - 13¹ (7:30 am) - 14 (ad house) - 17¹ - 18¹ - 19¹ - 20¹ (Ball Hill)

25 (river) 26 (Holdens H.) 30 (oak woods, Ball's) 4 Concord 1893.

Sept. 4¹ 1890. 3¹ (at pl) 4¹ - 5¹ Concord 1892

Nov. 2, 3 (in coll. W. S.) 17 (at sun by Mrs. M. Keary (Taylor)) 1893

galbula.

Iterns Baltimore

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 9 Cambridge. - Orioles arrived in force this morning. I heard General arrival
 them about sunrise singing in the elms near my house and Denton observed them at Wellesley and Watertown. None have been reported before to-day. Vegetation is far ahead of them this season. Cherry trees blossomed in the latter part of April and most of them have now shed their petals and set the fruit. Pear and apple trees are in full bloom; the latter came out yesterday.

" 10 In our garden this morning I saw a ♀ in company with a ♂ inspecting a last year's nest. Arrival of ♀

" 16 A pair copulating on the ground the ♀ with her bill filled with building material at the time. Building.

" 26 A nest, apparently finished, in an elm on Vassal Lane. As I was looking at it a bird in the plumage of a rather dull ♀ came to it looked in and then began to sing, uttering all the life notes that the ♂ is capable of producing. It may have been a young ♂ of course but I believe it to have been a ♀. ♀(?) singing

" 29 Watertown. - Orioles very numerous on the Coolidge farm and beyond, most of them in oak woods which, over most of this country, are more far from orchards, however. In oak woods
 These oak woods, especially the long belt behind the Catholic Cemetery, have been favorite haunts of theirs ever since I can remember.

June 12 Cambridge. - The Orioles about our place sang frequently at all hours of the day up to about June 4th. Since that date I have heard scarcely one. A ♂ was in full song in a maple grove in the swamps, however, on June 9th. Cessation of singing

" 16 Weyland. A ♂ sang twice at sunset.

21

Icterus Baltimore

1889 Mass.

June 22 Concord. - About all the young Orioles are now out of the nest Call of young
and one hears their monotonous fill-fill-fill or
pee-pee-pee in every direction in the elms and apple orchards.
It is certainly one of the most trying sounds in nature. The Silence of
old birds are seldom seen now and the ♂♂ have been ad ♂♂
practically silent for nearly two weeks although I occasionally
hear one sing a few times. It is certain that this species Rears only one
rears only one brood in a season. brood each year

July 2 Cambridge - It is singular how generally the Orioles Silence &
elude observation at this season. For the past retiring
week they have been silent and I have only had habits.
a few glimpses at them. They do not come to my
cherry trees with the Robins. The young cease their
dreary calling a few days after leaving the nest. Singing in

" 5 An Oriole sang four or five times in our garden this early July.
afternoon about sunset. Its notes were as loud & full as
in May

" 19 In a low-lying, but not swampy, portion of Noctor's woods Flock of 50
where the trees are mixed white pines, oak & maples, all of large size in oak &
& growing thickly with a dense underbrush of Clethra, Andromeda pine woods
ligustrina etc., I found, late this afternoon, a flock of at least
fifty Orioles. Not a single adult ♂ was seen among them but
there was at least one adult ♀ which came to me when I
"screeped", and chattered a little. The young were all in full or
nearly full autumnal plumage and all looked exactly alike.
They kept well together and fairly filled the tops of the
trees & bushes in which they fed. Once a number of them
descended to the ground in a ploughed field. They
were very silent & rather shy, I have seen no Orioles about
my garden for a week or more.

To p. 124

Icterus baltimore

1889 Mass

July 30 Cambridge. - About sunset a ♂ gave the full song once in my garden. It must have been an old bird for its notes were loud, clear and perfect in tone.

Singing

" 31 A ♂ singing feebly in my garden.

Aug 2 An adult ♂ in full song in my garden, about 9 a.m. Upon looking for it I spied it in the top of an apple tree where it was engaged in inserting its bill into the nearly ripe (Gravenstein) apples. I think however that it was eating cuculis larvae for it did not seem to use much force in driving in its bill and must have merely probed the cuculis holes. It was a very high-colored bird & seemed to be in full autumnal plumage.

Singing

Eating cuculis

" 5 An adult ♂ in fair plumage in full song this afternoon in my garden. I think the same bird makes me a visit daily. This afternoon he sang both loudly and sotto voce interspersing the trumpet notes with the tenderest possible liquid trills and low, whispering calls.

In fair song

" 17 Another singing, about sunset, precisely in the manner described above. The tender quality of his low notes was indescribable. I have never heard anything like them in Spring. This bird seemed to be in superb plumage. Two olive yellow chicks, apparently young, were with him. One of them may have been an old ♀ as he seemed to be singing to her. He frequently fluffed his tail upward and to one side much in the manner of I. spurius

Singing sotto voce

Fluffs tail

Icterus galbula

1890 Mass.

June 7 Saugus & Oak Island. - Several Orioles heard to-day at Saugus & one in the oaks at Oak Island had full, rich, sonorous voices such as I remember in connection with the Cambridge Orioles of twenty years ago. The latter for the past six or eight years at least have all fluted in shrill, falsetto tones and the Concord, Weyland, Belmont and Northman birds are equally dead. I should hesitate to record this impression were it not that Spelman & Faxon both confirm it having noticed the same thing independently.

Change of voice in certain localities

1891

March 30 Near Cambridge. - Several weeks ago Faxon expressed to me an opinion that nearly all the Oriole's nests which are built in elms that stand by the roadside, hang directly over the road. Since then I paid especial attention to the matter during my daily drives and am now satisfied that the fact is beyond any doubt. Indeed I have been unable to find a single nest in an elm that is on the side away from the road, although I have seen several nests thus placed in roadside apple trees, oaks, maples etc. Mr. B. E. Faxon admits the fact but thinks that the cause of this preference is that elm develops its branches most fully over the road because it usually finds most space on that side. W. Faxon and I cannot appreciate this for we find many nests in trees equally developed on all sides. We believe the bird chooses the side over the road for protection from some sense of greater security from Crows, Hawks etc. because of the frequent passing beneath.

Nests built over roads

May 8-13 Martha's Vineyard. - Neither Faxon nor I could find this Oriole on the island. Mr. Howard Norris of Cottage City assures us, however, that it is common breeding chiefly in swamps with Agelaius. I cannot fully credit this without further proof.

Said to breed in swamps on Martha's V.

Massachusetts.

Icterus galbula (no. 1.)

1892.

May, 21 Concord. In a thicket of wild cherries by the road side I saw a Baltimore Oriole a male feeding on tent caterpillars. It stood on a fork just above the nest and thrust its sharp bill deep down into the cobweb-like fabric extracting and eating the caterpillars rapidly. I suppose that the present violent, protracted, cold rain storm has forced it to this diet. I saw other Orioles feeding on the turf in pastures like Robbins but could not make out just what they were eating.

May 21. Four Orioles feeding on the turf in the pasture.

June. 15. A few days ago I noticed the apparent absence of Orioles this season along the river below the town. Up to that date there certainly were none along this stretch of river but the very next day I heard one near Dakins Hill and they have since steadily increased in numbers until today I must have seen or heard at least half-a dozen.

July 1. At 7 a.m. I looked at the Oriole nest in the elm in front of the house and saw at least one and I think two young birds sitting within its mouth. Two others were in the top of a neighboring apple tree where the male parent visited them occasionally with food. I did not once see him go to the nest either yesterday or today, nor did the female parent visit the young in the apple tree. Last evening she went to the nest with food after it had become nearly dark and then flew off again. She was gone once just 13

Massachusetts,

Icterus galbula (no. 2.)

1892.

- July 1 minutes yesterday evening. One of the young spent yesterday afternoon on a twig two feet or more from the nest but as twilight deepened it clambered back into the nest.
- July 5 Two young Orioles left the nest in the elm in front of the Buttricks' on the 1st inst. but at least one of the brood still clung to it as late as the forenoon of the 3rd. They were all out yesterday, but one remained in the tree last evening. This morning two were calling in an elm on the opposite side of the road and both parents were busily engaged in supplying them with food. The father went to the orchard but the mother as long as I watched her, regularly flew down into the tall, uncut English grass in Mr. Hayes's field, where, after perching on a mud head for a moment, she hopped down to the ground and was of course lost to view. As she came flying back I was struck by the tone of mingled anxiety & interrogative of her low call "where? where?" she seemed to say "Here-me-are" "Here-me-are" falling inflection. (A week later when this call had become louder and mellower it often bore a strong resemblance to the whistle of the Greater Yellow-leg the form being almost exactly the same.) Both young would promptly draw in answer and then, as she alighted near them, would repeat and extend this to "Here-me-are-mam-mä". "here-me-are-mam ma". It really required almost no imagination to fit these words to the calls in question and now that they have occurred to me the calling of young Orioles will no

Massachusetts.

Icterus galbula. (no. 3)

1892.

longer be to my ears, as it always has been, a disagreeable sound. On May 16th I first saw the pair of Orioles in the elm where this brood have been successfully reared. The male was probably about the house before this but if so I failed to distinguish him from migrating birds. On the 16th about noon, he came into the elm with his mate and flying to the exact spot where the nest was afterwards built clung with feet wide apart between the pendant twigs for a minute or more uttering a low, continuous chattering evidently begging the female to come and see what a peculiarly favorable nesting site he found, but she meanwhile was feeding birds in another part of the tree and turned a deaf ear to his entreaties. Three or four days later, however, I saw her weaving the first strands in among the twigs. The nest was not finished until May 30th.

June 16 The young Orioles still give the here-me-are call but less and less frequently as the season advances. I watched an old female of this species eat cherries yesterday. She operated on them in a deliberate somewhat fastidious manner piercing the skin with her sharp bill and then slowly tasting and swallowing the juice and perhaps some of the pulp also. In no instance was the cherry removed from the stem.

Aug 22 Concord. The male Oriole sang several times in loud, ringing tones. This is the first time I have

Massachusetts,

Icterus galbula. (no. 4.)

1892.

heard the full song for several weeks although a bird (evidently adult) in the birch swamp on the Assabet last evening gave most of it sub voce. This autumn (or rather late summer) song of the Baltimore is more prolonged and richer than the ordinary spring fluting and its effect is heightened by the general silence at this season. It begins with the normal flute-like song, is continued by a succession of rich notes + ends, usually in a low chatter.

Aug. 29. Concord. At about noon an Oriole flew over the house low down singing on wing, the notes becoming rapidly fainter as the distance increased, but apparently not ceasing until after the bird had got quite beyond hearing. His voice was at once rich, tender, sonorous. I am satisfied that this late summer singing of the Baltimore is in every way superior to his best efforts in May and June. The song is much more prolonged. There was nothing peculiar about the flight while the bird was singing.

Sept. 5 Just below Flint's bridge many birds were perched on or in the tops of tall maples whence they darted out after flies. An Oriole, several Bluebirds + Phoebe + many Whippoorwills were thus engaged.

Icterus galbula

Cambridge to Concord, Mass. Orioles had evidently arrived in force last night. Orisles
May 9-1893. Besides the one in Cambridge we saw three together
in Melrose, two single birds in Luverne and two
in Concord. All were males. There was only one
really fine plumaged bird among them and two
(one of which was the Cambridge bird) were very dull
colored birds. My only cherry tree had only three
blossoms left when I left Cambridge this
morning so the Orioles for once have arrived before
the cherry trees are in bloom. (Faxon saw 5 in Arlington
to-day, this being his first record)

1893

May 17
(Sat)

Concord to Cambridge, Mass.
May 17
Orisles were extraordinarily abundant everywhere along Orisles
the road between Cambridge Concord and Cambridge. I heard or saw
at least thirty males and a few females. Many abundant
of the males were pair singing giving a long series
of rich flute-like notes as they went to and fro. Faxon
tells me that his experience and all the experts
both then & now, he has never seen so many Orioles
before & they seem to have settled to their usual
manner of singing.

Concord, Mass.
May 24. 1893.

The remarkable abundance of Orioles continues to be one
of the most interesting features of this season. I saw
or heard them everywhere along the road where there were
shrubs or thickets and sometimes in the woods. They were
nearly if not quite as numerous as Robins. As there
are now many nests at least I have completed it is
probable that the birds everywhere are settled for the season.

Remarkable
abundance
of Orioles
May 24

Icterus galbula.

Concord, Mass.

1893. I have not heard an Oriole sing since the 7th but the
July 17. birds are about the house (the Buttrick's) in the elms and
orchard at all hours. I see them usually in little family
parties composed of the old female and her young which are
now fully grown and strong on wing but still addicted to ut-
tering the monotonous here-we-are call. The old males are
seldom with their families and I see little of them.

Icterus galbula.

Concord, Mass.

Adult males reappearing.

1893. The adult male Orioles are coming out of retirement at
Aug.4. last. On the way to Ball's Hill I saw one, apparently in
good plumage, in an elm by the roadside not far from a house
and another fluted once this evening near the Buttrick's.
These are the first that I have noted since July 18th but
Faxon told me on Aug.1st that he had seen them regularly up
to that date in the elms about the hotel at E.Lexington and
further that there had been a little singing each morning
early up to that date.

Icterus galbula.

1895. Mass.

Middlesex County. - Last year (1894) was a great "Owl year". There seemed to be nearly twice as many as in 1893. This year they appeared in even greater numbers and both Haxon & I think that we have never seen so many in this region before. Hoffmann in walking along Pleasant St. early in June counted ten new nests between Belmont & Arlington within a distance of less than three miles. Two males have sung daily in our rear our garden in Cambridge. One of them was here last year for his voice is peculiar & unmistakable.

a great "Owl year"

Maine

Brewer. - Manly Hardy writes me (May 12, 1890) that these Orioles "nested in Bangor (I saw their nests in winter) for at least three years before they crossed the river [to Maine] and then they came to stay & have been regular visitors ever since".

1898 Mass.

May 11 Concord. Two ♂s singing on Ball's Hill. First arrivals. [Journ.]
N.H.

June 14-15 Wolboro. Heard two singing in the village at evening. [Journ.]
Mass.

June 26 Concord. Within the past few days I have seen them feeding greedily on green caterpillars. [Journ.]

July 2-4 Glendall (in or near), Berkshire Co. Common. [Journ.]
N.H.

July 5 Peterborough. A brood of young heard calling at intervals

Aug. 15 near our house on Ben Mear farm on July 12th.
On Aug. 2 a single bird was seen by Mr. Purdie. [Journ.]

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1886, Montreal, Can.

Aug. 17, Baltimore Oriole.

O. & O. XI. Mar. 1886. p. 44.

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Baltimore Oriole, scarce.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 75

The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) in Nova Scotia.—In September, 1886, I received from Mr. A. B. Sheraton, of Halifax, a young male of this species in the flesh. Mr. Sheraton wrote me that he had bought it from a countryman in the streets of Halifax, who reported having shot it within a few miles of that city. I cannot find any previous record of the occurrence of this Oriole in Nova Scotia, although it breeds regularly in the vicinity of Woodstock on the St. John River.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.* *Auk*, 4, July 1887, p. 256.

Some new records for Nova Scotia.

Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—A young male in first winter plumage, taken October 4, 1902, is the second only that has been recorded (see *Auk*, IV, 1887, p. 256, for earlier record) and Mr. Boucher comments that it "came during a heavy gale."

Jonathan Dwight, Jr., M.D., New York City.

Auk, 21, Oct., 1903, p. 440.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part, II, Land Birds,
Auk, xxiv Jan. 1907, p. 78.

185. *Icterus galbula.* BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Common summer resident, April 12 to September 1; breeds (June 14, 1889).

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24, 1885.
124. *Icterus Baltimore* .. One ad. ♂ (25th) ✓

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '83. W. Faxon

23. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Not common.
Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

27. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Not common.
Auk, V. April, 1888. p.152

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N.H. July-August, 1874. J.A. Allen

19. *Icterus galbula*. Seen a few times at Bethlehem, Aug. 15 and later.
Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Icterus galbula.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Wolfboro, N. H. June 18-1889.
Icterus gal. 1 ♂ *hucusq. villosi dimis.*

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.
Icterus galbula

1895.

May 20 - Two ♂♂ at Plymouth N.H. }
" 22 - Three " " Warren " " }
June 1 - One ♂ " No. Woodstock }
" 4 - Two ♂ Warren Village }
W. Faxon

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

33. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. — Rare and local; seen chiefly in the village streets.

by Arthur H. Howell. *Auk*, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342.

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28 - July 16. W. Faxon

24. Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Not rare in the settled
portions of the country.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 100

Mass. (Winchendon)

Breeds in limited numbers (Bailey). I saw
two mounted specimens at his house

Icterus baltimore.

76. *Icterus baltimore*. - June 16; F. Mass. 1885,
Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June 18 - 1886.
77. *Icterus baltimore*. Two or three only.

Arrived

Icterus baltimore

Mr. Walter Faxon's notes on arrival include the
following dates; all, I think, for Wareley (Belmont) Mass.

1886 May 5
1887 " 4
1888 " 6
1889 " 8

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May (4 ^{several} reported) - 6²⁰ - 8⁴⁰ - 9²⁵ - 10⁶ - 11² - 13⁴ - 16⁴ - 17¹⁰ - 21⁴ - 23¹⁰ - 26²⁰
June 2¹⁰ - 3³ - 4⁸ - 6⁴ - 7¹⁰ - 16¹⁰ - 17¹⁵ - 21⁷ - 25⁷
July 2⁴ - 7¹ - 15¹ - 31¹
Aug. 9¹ - 10² - 13⁴ - 15² (28 ^{at} pl) - 17²

✓ In woods.

Icterus baltimore

Mass.

* = singing # young calling in nest. † young
on wing.

Icterus galbula

One seen by F. B. Webster, at Hyde Park, Mass.

Nov. 18, 1888. Cf O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p.

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Icterus bal. June 18th (town of W.)

Mass (Hyde Park)

Icterus Baltimore

1888

Nov. 18

F. B. Webster tells me that at above date and place he saw a Baltimore Oriole in his garden. It was a ♂, an adult, not a richly colored one, however.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Icterus Baltimore

About two pairs were breeding in the elms along the main street of Ashby. The species was not observed at West Townsend or elsewhere in this region.

1888.

Icterus Baltimore. Wellesley, Mass.

May 10. several heard. 11. 1 seen & heard 12th 14th

16. 5 23 nest 31 nest

1889. May 9. 1 10. about abundant. 13. nest building

S. W. Denton.

ARRIVALS. — Sunday morning, May 13,
Baltimore Orioles, appeared at Dorchester, Mass.

O. & O. VIII. June, 1888, p. 42.

Notes from Pittsfield, Mass.

J. J. Rigney:

1883 p. 62

I have seen only one Baltimore Oriole here, and that was on May 12th. He stayed for a few days and then disappeared.

O. & O. VIII. Aug. 1883 p. 63.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Aug. 20 Orioles are caroling in the tall elms
as in early June.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 1

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Aug. 14 - Baltimore Orioles, which have kept themselves from
view during the "hot spells," are once more
about the houses.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 1

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Aug. 30; Baltimore Orioles still remain
common.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 1

The Baltimore Oriole in Massachusetts in November.—On Nov. 15,
1885, I shot a male Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), in perfect plu-
mage and condition, while feeding upon frozen apples in an orchard. I
send this account of the late appearance of this bird, which usually leaves
us in September, thinking that it may be worthy of record in 'The Auk.'—
CHAS. E. INGALLS, *East Templeton, Mass.* **Auk, 3, Jan., 1886.** p. 135

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Icterus galbula (Linn.) Baltimore Oriole.
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

28. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Common.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 44

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster.

32. *Icterus galbula*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 389

A Baltimore Oriole, bright and happy, flitted into
our yard at Hyde Park, Nov. 18. He was not molest-
ed and has our best wishes for his journey South.

O. & O. XII, Dec. 1888 p. 191

Icterus galbula

1895. Falmouth, Mass.

July 13 ♀ ad with one full fledged young visited
ailanthus trees front of our house.

" 29 ♂ ad. with Robin & Redwing in white cedars
at Marshall's house a little before sunset.
Apparently intending to roost there.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Icterus galbula.

June 3[♂] 4¹⁵ Fairfield
" 5² 6⁴ 7² 8³ 9² 10³ 11² } Saybrook
12² 13² 14¹ 15² 16⁴ 17¹ }
18[♀] 19² 20¹ }
21³ 22⁶ 23¹⁰ 24⁶ 25³ Andover

About as numerous as in Mass. and of
precisely similar local distribution, frequenting
village streets shaded by elms & elms or apple
orchards near farm houses & along country roads,
seldom seen in woods except on the edges of
small woods.
at Saybrook a male with nest, and young in
an elm nearly opposite our hotel had a song
which closely resembled that of the English
Blackbird. His voice was a rich, deep contralto
and he used it most effectively. Another
bird who frequented some elms a few
rods further up the street sang in
precisely the same tone & manner, indeed
it would have been impossible to tell the
two apart. Both were in high plumage.
A third Oriole near Charles had a
similar voice but was a less fine singer.
The songs of the other Orioles in & about
Saybrook were not especially peculiar.

Icterus galbula in Connecticut in November.—A young male was shot
in my dooryard Nov. 15, 1885. It was in good condition and showed no
signs of ever having been caged. It was seen about my grounds several
days previous to the above date.—JNO. H. SAGE, Portland, Conn.

Auk, 8, Jan., 1886. p. 135.

Brief Notes.

On December 22, 1892, I saw a Baltimore Oriole on our grape arbor, pecking at some frozen grapes. It was in good plumage. It was a keen, sharp morning, with snow squalls in the afternoon. I approached quite near to the bird. Although I have kept a sharp lookout, I have not seen it since.

Charles H. Neff.

Portland, Conn. **O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1893 p. 47**

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coues

48. *Icterus baltimore*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. — Very common.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

82. *Icterus galbula* (Linn.) Coues. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—This species rests on the authority of Dr. A. K. Fisher, who writes me that it occurs in southern Warren County.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 230

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Pair, Jr.

May 10, *Icterus galbula*, (507). Baltimore Oriole.

O. & O. XI, July. 1886. p. 109

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Aixton], New York, [1901].

May 20 to 25.

Baltimore Oriole. Not common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 299.

Random notes on N. H. Vol 1 No 18
Feathered Engineers. 2 pt 1884
p. 4

WHAT A COUPLE OF BALTIMORE ORIOLES DID BY SETTING
THEIR WITS TO WORK.

ON the western side of Central Park, very near 103d Street and Eighth Avenue, stands a row of elm trees, difficult to approach on account of a heavy growth of syringa bushes around them. On a branch of one of the trees, about sixteen feet from the ground, a pair of Baltimore orioles set to building a nest a few weeks ago. They chose the extreme end of the bough, with evident intention of making it a hazardous experiment for any bird-nester to attempt to molest them. But in their excess of caution they appeared not to observe what the few persons whose eyes were keen enough to see the first labors of the little architects saw — that the branch was much too slender to support so large a nest as an oriole builds.

When the nest was about two-thirds finished the birds saw their mistake. The branch had bent so low that it was getting perilously near the grass. Work was at once stopped, and the builders sat close together for a long time, and seemed to be discussing the situation. Finally, they flew side by side to a bough about fifteen inches over the one on which their nest was, and, leaning over, inspected the distance. They seemed to be satisfied, and, though it was growing rapidly dusk, the birds flew away in opposite directions. In the morning it was found that they had firmly secured their habitation and prevented the branch from bending lower, by passing a piece of white string, which they had found somewhere in the Park, over the upper bough, and fastening both ends of it securely to the edges of the nest. The building then went rapidly on, and the orioles are now engaged in hatching their eggs. Very few persons have seen the nest, and there is a fair prospect that their skill and ingenuity will be soon rewarded by a brood of young orioles.

The Baltimore oriole is a very intelligent bird, but a New York ornithologist, who saw the nest, said that he had never before seen an achievement quite equal to this one. He says the art of knitting fibres or strings together is well known to many birds. The weaver bird of India builds its nest out of a large, strong leaf, which it stitches together at the edges, making a compact and closely adhering funnel.— *New York Sun*.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

79. Icterus baltimore.

First plumage: Top of head, nape, and interscapular region brownish-olive ; wing-bands pale fulvous ; rump, breast, anal region, and crissum olivaceous-yellow ; throat dull yellow ; abdomen pale buffy-yellow ; patches of ash on the sides. From a specimen in my collection shot in Cambridge, Mass., July 18, 1874. Autumnal adults have the orange-red richer and clearer than in spring, and the wing-quills much more broadly and conspicuously edged with white. Neither wing nor tail feathers are changed during the first moult.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 176 .

Cambridge, Mass.

Icterus baltimore.

1885.

Beginning of second song period.

Aug. 6

♂ singing quite steadily but in low tones for half an hour or more between 9 and 10 A. M. Same bird heard again about sunset when his notes were as loud and full as in June. I have not heard one before for at least three weeks. Day cool with an autumn feeling in the air.

Mass. (Concord)

Icterus baltimore

Peculiar notes.

MAY 17 1887

A new-comer to the Mause grounds this morning had a song precisely like that of *Thryothorus carolinus* save that it was invariably preceded by two characteristic Oriole notes. The latter, however, were audible only a few rods away and did not save me from a most excited pursuit of what I felt sure was a Carolina Wren.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

It would almost seem as if the Baltimore Oriole timed its advent by the blossoming of the fruit trees. At all events, the blossoms and the Orioles usually come together. And when the cherry and apples trees wear their full spring array the bright birds are in high spirits, gaily flashing from one tree to another, and sounding forth their golden-toned trumpets from the fragrant clouds of white bloom, amid which they spend many an hour while the blossoms remain. And when it may, much of its time is also passed with a splendid foreign cousin of these trees, the Japan quince,—that brilliant flowering shrub that flames about lawns and gardens in early May, and that finds a rival brightness when the Fire-bird busies itself among its scarlet blossoms.

On their arrival these Orioles are particularly vivacious and noisy, and though their spirits appear soon to subside they continue in full note. But through most of July they are feeble-voiced and often silent. There is, however, no strict silent-period, for in some summers they are less quiet than in others, and even when most reticent they seem unable to restrain occasional imperfect song-notes. But the lapse of song in mid-summer undoubtedly points to an illy-defined silent-period, for full song is resumed in August. In the latter month, chiefly in its third quarter, their notes are frequent in the early morning and become as full-toned as in spring, at times seeming to be more extended, even as the bird's plumage is brighter. Still, at this season a few simple notes is a more usual expression than the full song. The latter I hear last in August, from the 5th to 27th. The simpler notes have always closed my record of the presence of the bird—August 19 to September 6.

Mr. William Brewster gives me the following notes on the Baltimore Oriole as observed at Cambridge, Mass. :—

“Through late July and early August they are silent and retiring, but with the first cool mornings, generally about August 20, the male begins singing again and flashes in and out among the leaves with all the vivacity of June. His plumage now is even brighter than in spring. At this season he sings only in the early morning.” *Auk*, 2, July, 1885. p. 251-252.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE, (*Icterus galbula.*) I

know of a dozen families in this vicinity who call this bird “Switch him.” There is perhaps little satisfaction in trying to express bird-notes in syllables, yet the following can be made to sound very much like the Oriole's song note: “Switch 'im, switch 'im, peà-pun per peà-up, peà-up,” with the “peà up” sometimes repeated several times.

I should really enjoy hearing some of the readers of the “O. and O.” practice this exercise. It won't sound familiar unless you throw as much energy into its expression as the bird does.

*Notes from Junco City Conn. by
Charles Edward Davis.*

O. & O. IX. Aug. 1884. p. 101.

[Peculiar song of Icterus galbula]

Robbins, Appleton & Co.,

AGENTS AMERICAN WALTHAM WATCH CO. WALTHAM MASS.

NO 373 WASHINGTON STREET.

NEW YORK. 21 MAIDEN LANE.
CHICAGO. 103 STATE ST.
LONDON. HOLBORN CIRCUS.
MONTREAL. 189 ST. JAMES ST.

Boston June 22 1899

Mr Brewster, Esq

New Song of the Baltimore Oriole.—I wish to call the attention of the readers of 'The Auk' to a seemingly new song which a number of Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) have acquired. The Orioles singing it are abundant in and about Prides Crossing and Beverly Farms, Mass., though similar singers elsewhere have been reported only from South Berwick, Maine.

The new song is as follows :



The three notes, D, A, D, are whistled in a robust, bold, loud quality, noticeably coarser and firmer than the quality of other Oriole songs. The notes are invariable both in tempo, tune and rhythm; except that sometimes a grace note on A precedes the first D, or sometimes the first D is omitted; this apparently when the bird is in a hurry or nervous, or the A may be a trifle sharpened. The succeeding sixteenth notes, which constitute the remarkable part of the performance, are indeterminate in pitch, and are spoken to the syllables: *chuck, chuck, chuck, chuck*, etc., perhaps five or seven times iterated.

This chuckling, so far as I can tell, invariably follows this particular tune, but none other. Other Orioles in the same locality sing other tunes with a more mellow and variable quality of whistle; but these latter birds, so far as I can be sure of their individual identity, never chuckle at any time. The chuckling birds seem also to be of a duller orange, almost the tint of a Bluebird's breast, or a 'chestnut' horse, and are possibly last year's young or two-year-olds.

This chuckling song seems well worth mention, because as it is so marked and unusual it can be readily detected. And it would be interesting to inquire how widely spread this song may have become this season, as well as whether it has ever been heard before. If the song is a mimicry or imitation of some other species, I should welcome any suggestion as to the identity of its original model.—REGINALD C. ROBBINS, Boston, Mass. *Auk*, XVI, Oct., 1899, p p. 354-5.

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orange hue (similar to the "chestnut" of a blue-
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[Peculiar song of Teterus galbula]

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Boston June 22 1899

Wm Brewster, Esq

Dear Sir:

I wish to bring to your attention a peculiarity in the song of the "Baltimore Oriole" and ask if you are familiar with it, or whether it is something new. I find no mention of this manner of singing either in Chapman, Minot nor Nuttall, though the latter very minutely describes the various performances of this bird. And two well-known naturalists who are quite familiar with birds cannot remember ever having heard an Oriole make music in this manner.

The facts are these: A number of Orioles, probably in some cases of a dull and somewhat "bay"-tinged orange hue (similar to the "chestnut" of a blue-bird's breast or of a "chestnut" horse), located in and about Prides Crossing and Beverly Farms,

Mass. (Cambridge)

Icterus baltimore

1885

Unusual nesting-site.

To-day (Dec. 17) I saw a Baltimore's nest in an unusual situation. It was built directly against the upright main stem of a Lombardy poplar at least ten feet from the top of the tree and ~~was~~ supported by short horizontal twigs. This site was the more singular from the fact the very next tree but one was a large drooping elm.

Notes after Taps.

In looking over my notes I find that on the night of May 5, 1887, while running my outline, I heard a Spotted Sandpiper call, and after I answered he called again. I also heard a Song Sparrow. It was then about ten o'clock, an hour or so after I heard a Robin sing. Were these birds out serenading, or were they talking in their sleep? I often hear Chipper Sparrows and Phœbes at midnight and after. Let us hear from others on the subject.

A CURIOUS ORIOLE'S NEST.

I inclose a photograph of a Baltimore Oriole's nest now in my collection. It was found in a maple tree about thirty feet from the ground. It is what might be called two nests on one twig. The lower nest was used last year, and the upper one the year before. My opinion is that the male slept in the upper nest while the female tended the eggs below, as you see the lower nests partly fastened to the upper one. Did you ever hear of or see a nest like this before? Let others give their opinions.

Alden Loring.

Oswego, N. Y.

[The photograph shows two nests linked together. The lower one has the regular ap-

One and Curious Birds' Nests.

But nothing can exceed in beauty and cosiness the nest of a female Baltimore Oriole in my possession. It was built under peculiar circumstances, the author being a prisoner, having been taken from the parental home when quite a fledgeling. A male companion was captured at or about the same time. These birds are the property of Dr. Detwiler, of Easton, Pa., and are a source of pleasure to this elderly gentleman in his leisure moments. Though becoming quite tame under the careful and kindly management of their keeper, the female manifesting greater familiarity than her associate, it never occurred to the Doctor that either would become so accustomed to the situation as to evince a desire to build. When alone, he always allowed them the freedom of his studio, in or out of season. One lovely June morning in 1883, the outside world being full of joy and life and sunshine, he threw open the door of their cage, and settled himself for reading. Hardly had he read a dozen lines when he felt something pulling at his hair; on looking up he descried the offender flying towards a distant part of the room with something in her bill that resembled a hair. When the Doctor had resumed his reading, she stole cautiously forward, seized another hair, and was off in a twinkling. Permitting these liberties for a while, and noticing that bits of strings were, when placed in positions to be seen, as much the objects of interest as the hairs of his head, he was not slow in divining the motive which led to this strange and unexpected proceeding. Convinced by actions as significant as words themselves could be, he at once entered into the idea of his little feathered friend, and began to look about for a room where she might carry out her plan for the future, free from human interference. In a short time a place was found in the attic, which he fitted up, furnishing it with a large branch for a perch, and with the necessary materials, in the shape of new white strings, for nest building. The female now entered into her voluntarily imposed task with the most determined zeal and alacrity, and at the end of a week had constructed a domicile which her wild, untamed prototypes of the fields and the roadsides would strive in vain to excel.

Prof. Thomas G. Gentry.
O. & O. X. July, 1885, p. 112

Birds' Nests Co., N. Y. Alden Loring,

271. Baltimore Oriole. Common. Breeds. Is a late arrival, making its appearance about the sixth of May, sometimes later. This beautiful bird seems to desire the society of mankind, and its nest may be found swinging high above his head in the maple, elm and willow trees. It is a very ingenious bird, and takes great care in constructing its nest, which is composed of strings and rags, and is lined with horse hair. The eggs, four to five in number, are of a bluish tinge blotched and scrawled with lavender and different shades of brown. This bird departs about August 30th.

O. & O., XV, June, 1880, p. 64

Some Curious Sets of the Baltimore Oriole's Eggs.

There seems to be a wide range in the size and coloration of the eggs of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) and although most sets can be distinguished at a glance, I think that the following ones would puzzle many people:

I. Three eggs, light bluish-white, entirely unmarked: .88 x .68; .86 x .65; .88 x .66.

II. Four eggs, light bluish-white, entirely unmarked: .94 x .62; .98 x .65; .92 x .68; .95 x .65.

III. Six eggs, typical in color and markings, but remarkably small: .79 x .60; .80 x .60; .78 x .59; .76 x .57; .79 x .60; .80 x .58. This set was taken on June 6, 1878, at Preston, Conn., by the celebrated oölogist "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson) who described the parents, nest, etc., as normal.

IV. Four eggs, coloration normal, but they are the largest specimens of this species that I have ever seen: 1.07 x .65; 1.01 x .63; .95 x .64; 1.05 x .64. J. P. N.

O. & O., XVI, April, 1891, p. 61.

A PECULIAR NEST OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—When the leaves fell in the autumn of 1876, I discovered a bird's nest suspended from a slender limb of a cotton-wood that stands, with others, on the outskirts of Charles City, (Iowa). This nest immediately attracted my attention, and I made several attempts to secure it, but was unsuccessful, as it hung near the end of a limb too slender to bear my weight.

It hung there throughout the following winter, but in the spring of 1877 a young friend of lighter weight than myself obtained it and gave it to me. It is, unmistakably, the nest of a Baltimore Oriole,—the material used in its construction and the manner in which it is woven plainly show this; but it differs very materially in shape from any other nest of the species that I have ever seen.

The length of the nest is eleven inches; greatest diameter, four inches. Body of nest, an upright cone about eight inches in height, with a rounded base. It is composed of the ordinary material: "natural strings of the flax of the silk-weed," horse-hair, etc. At its apex, several pieces of twine are woven into the fabric, and, about three inches above, are securely fastened to a horizontal twig, all at the same point, forming the sole support of the nest. The opening for entrance is in the side of the nest, at the point of its greatest diameter, about three inches from the base. It is perfectly circular and about one inch in diameter.—HENRY S. WILLIAMS, *Charles City, Floyd Co., Ia.*

Bull. N. O. O. 6, July, 1881, p. 182

AN ORIOLE'S NEST. In 1878 a Baltimore Oriole built its nest in an elm in front of our house. In '79 it returned and fixing it a little raised its young. In '80 it did the same. In '81 some White-eyed Vireos carried away part of it and the Orioles built another. In '82 they patched up the old one and used it. They did the same in '83, making five years they have used one nest. It is still hanging, and whether they will use it again is a question.—J. W. Thwber, *Nashua, N. H.* O. & O. IX, Apr. 1884, p. 48

Large sets of eggs.

this season I have taken a set

7

6 Baltimore Orioles,

C. E. Lincolnton, Gildersleeve, Conn.

O. & O. IX, Oct. 1884, p. 128.

Icterus Baltimore

Autumnal habits

Cambridge, Mass.
Aug. 31, 1882

These Orioles have been very noisy and conspicuous for the past two weeks. thro' late July and early August they were silent and retiring but with the first cool mornings, generally about Aug. 20th, they begin singing again and flashes in and out among the leaves with all the vivacity of June. His plumage now is even brighter than in Spring. At this season he sings only in the early morning.

Watertown, Mass.

Icterus Baltimore

1884.

Aug. 13

" 20

A ♂ singing steadily & loudly (Longwood, Brookline)
A family party of five or six, including the adult ♂ in oak & yellow pine woods on the Coolidge farm (Watertown). They fed at the ends of the oak branches, bending head down like I. spurius. They were very active & playful, chasing one another continually. The young were in perfect fall dress as was the adult, also, apparently the ad. ♂ sang rather freely. The English Sparrows have driven nearly all

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Cambridge, Mass
Aug. 31, 1882

From birds from Cambridge.

- Aug. 23. Several adult ♂ and ♀ in the same woods as that the 20th. One seen the same day and nest the adult ♀ which was in full fall dress.
- " 31. Saw two on apparently an adult ♀. (Boston)
- Sept 1. 2. The Orioles here all left the Corvids young (Walden)

ICTERUS BALTIMOREI AND POPULUS TREMULOIDES.—Two specimens of the American aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stand in my garden which I transplanted from the woods in the spring of 1876. During the latter part of May, 1878, I noticed that the trees were being denuded very rapidly of their leaves and I could not detect the presence of worm or fly by the use of a glass of twenty diameters. The leaves did not appear to have been eaten by insects but torn away piecemeal, leaving ragged edges, and not infrequently the leaf-stalks broken off or hanging loosely to the branch. About three-fourths of the leaves disappeared in this manner in the space of fifteen or twenty days from one tree and nearly all from the other. A second set of leaves was produced in June and the trees made a strong and healthy growth during the remainder of the season. In 1879 the denudation was again commenced in like manner at the same season of the year. I could not charge it to the wind because other trees in the garden were not so affected and my meteorological record forbade any such cause. Upon careful watching while at work in the garden I detected a Baltimore Oriole eating the leaves with evident relish. The bird stood on a branch and picked at and tore off the leaves, eating them with as much apparent enjoyment as our domestic fowls eat the leaves of the plantain.

I watched him closely for a while and upon going towards the tree he flew away, uttering his rattle in such a tone that it required no stretch of the imagination to think that he was somewhat irritated at being molested in his gastronomic proclivities. He soon returned, however, accompanied by a female, and the pair continued to eat for several minutes, interlarding the feast with various acts of courtship, and then flew off, each with a leaf or part of one in the beak. The same act was repeated during the day and on succeeding days until the trees were nearly as bare of leaves as in winter. As in the former year, a second set of leaves appeared and though the trees received a check in their growth, they recovered, increased in size and ripened their wood in due season. A similar destruction of leaves was performed by the same species of bird — probably the same pair — in 1880, and the trees recovered their wonted vigor by repeating the process of preceding years. The second set of leaves were not eaten by the birds in either year, though they were in the garden more or less every day during the summer and frequently alighted in the trees, separately, together, and with their young.

I had formerly considered the *Icterus baltimorei* essentially insectivorous and frugivorous; I am now aware that some of them at least are decidedly vegetarian once in the year.—ELISHA SLADE, *Somerset, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 6, July, 1881, p. 181-182.

Notes from Springfield, Mass.

Icterus galbula.—In the latter part of last autumn a Baltimore Oriole appeared in a thickly settled residential portion of Springfield, and remained in that vicinity until the latter part of December, an interesting sight to many observers.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk. xxxi. Oct. 1914. p. 544.

Baltimore Oriole.

On looking over some of the back numbers of the *O. and O.*, I noticed a query as to the adaptability of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) to cage life. I happen to be in a position to answer that, when taken young, and when a reasonable amount of care is bestowed on it, it makes an excellent cage bird. I know of one which was taken from the nest in July, 1879, and he is apparently as healthy and happy as any of his confreres, who are in the full enjoyment of their liberty. He is quite very fond of his mistress, and affection plainly by his manner approaches his cage. He will eat anything, but he is particularly fond of hard boiled egg, bread and meat. He has also a great relish for fresh fruit; but if that cannot be had, he takes very kindly to any kind of preserves, as a substitute. He will eat all kinds of bird-seed, if previously bruised with a rolling-pin, but not otherwise. He has never known an hour's illness; his song is as loud, clear and varied as that of any Oriole I have ever heard, and he sings continually. During our long and severe Winter great care is necessary to prevent the Orioles suffering from the cold, and for this reason an old shawl is thrown over his cage every evening, and removed in the morning. He has got so used to this that during the cold weather he watches for the shawl every night, and refuses to go to sleep without it. But the most remarkable thing about him is that he is in beautiful plumage, with not a feather soiled or broken, although his cage is not a particularly large one.—W. L. Scott, *Ottawa, Canada.*

O. & O. VIII, NOV. 1883, p. 86.

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O. & O. VII, NOV. 1883, p. 86.

Birds Feeding on Hairy Caterpillars. —In the July Auk, A. W. Perrior, of Syracuse, N. Y., in a note on the 'Food of the Robin,' expresses surprise at seeing the Robin feeding the larvæ of *Clisiocampa americana* to her young, saying that this is the first instance he has known of any bird feeding on them except the Cuckoo. From my own experience I can testify that the Baltimore Oriole eats them also. I have no doubt that a little observation would give us a long list of birds which eat them, judging from the list which has been found to eat *Clisiocampa distria*, a caterpillar about as hairy as *C. americana*. While in Brandon, Vt., for a short time this spring, I saw the larvæ of the latter eaten by Baltimore Orioles, Red-winged Blackbirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, Chipping Sparrows, Robins and Red Crossbills; and this list is extended to no less than twenty-four species by the observations of Miss Caroline G. Soule, who is working on *C. distria* at that place. Besides those given above, her list includes Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Cedarbirds, both Cuckoos, Bluebirds, Flickers, Warbling, Red-eyed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, American Goldfinches, Catbirds and Yellow Warblers, as well as Kingbirds, Phœbes, Great-crested Flycatchers and Chebecs. The Flycatchers darted upon the caterpillars as they swung suspended by their webs or fed on pendant leaves.—MARY MANN MILLER, *Brooklyn, N. Y. Auk*, XVI, Oct., 1899, p. 362.

Nomenclature of North American
Birds, Elliott Coues.

216. *Icterus galbula* (Linn., 1758) Coues. Since Baird first adopted some of the 1758 Linnæan names, there has been a growing disposition in their favor on the part of American ornithologists, and several have since been selected by Baird and Ridgway, and by myself. European ornithologists steadily refuse to recognize such names, on the ground that they do not take Linnæus's work until it finally left his hands in 1766. The argument for the tenth edition is, first, that here the binomial system is thoroughly established and consistently applied; and that Linnæus has no more right to change his own names, once thus fully set forth, than any one else has. It may be said, further, that to take Linnæus at 1758 would be to bring a reputable author, Brännich, within the pale, and to lessen the inconvenience of Brisson's exceptional case. At any rate, we have already adopted *Elanoides forficatus* instead of *E. furcatus*, *Chetura pelagica* for *C. pelagica*, *Progne subis* for *P. purpurea*, *Icteria virens* for *I. viridis*, etc. Consistency, which is a jewel, requires us either to abandon these or take the rest. I prefer the latter course; and the first case of this kind which I beg to submit is the *Coracias galbula* Linn., 1758. This is based solely upon Catesby, pl. 48; and Catesby's bird is the Baltimore Oriole, whose binomial name was changed by Linnæus in 1766 to *Oriolus baltimore*.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 98

894. *The Baltimore Oriole. (Icterus Galbula.)* By Wilmot. *Ibid.*, May 29, pp. 342, 343.— On its habits. *For. & Stream*, XXII

910. *Orioles in Massachusetts.* By C. I. Goodale. *Ibid.*, p. 444.—Not decreasing in numbers, etc. *For. & Stream*, XXII

1017. *Feathered Engineers.* What a Couple of Baltimore Orioles did by Setting Their Wits to Work. *Ibid.*, No. 9, p. 4. (From the 'New York Sun.')

Grand O. 278. *Baltimore Oriole.* By Dr. H. A. Atkins. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 13.—Dates of its arrival for 25 years at Locke, Ingham Co., Mich.

761. *Baltimore Oriole [as a Cage Bird].* By W. I. Scott. *O. & O. Vol. VIII*, p. 86.

1485. [*Orioles nesting.*] By John N. Clark. *Ibid.*, No. 12, Dec., 1886, p. 98. *Rand. Notes Nat. His*, III

Sunny So. Oologist, 1500. *The Orioles.* By Wm. L. Kells. *Ibid.*, No. 3, May, 1886, pp. 25-28.—A popular account of *Icterus galbula*, *I. spurius*, *Sturnella magna* and *Molothrus ater*, as observed in Ontario. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 40.

1427. *Carnivorous Prairie Dogs—Carnivorous Orioles.* By W. O. Ayres. *Ibid.*, No. 185, Aug. 20, 1886, p. 165. *Science*, Vol. VIII

1652. "Upon the Tree Top." By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 336, Oct., 1885, pp. 533-540.—Habits of *Icterus galbula*. *Atlantic Mon.*

1668. *The "Black-capped" Baltimore.* By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LXIV, No. 382, Aug., 1889, pp. 265-270.—*Icterus galbula* in captivity. *Atlantic Mon.*

2004. *About My Pets—One of Them.* By 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster' [= Rausburg]. *Ibid.*, No. 7, Feb., 1887, pp. 89-90.—*Icterus galbula*. *Hoosier Naturalist*, Vol. 2.

bullocki

Bullock's Oriole in Maine.—Mr. Manly Hardy writes me that a male Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*) was shot "a few miles from Bangor, Maine, about the middle of November, 1889, and sent in the flesh to Mr. Crosby, the well-known Bangor taxidermist, by whom it was mounted." Mr. Hardy has lately examined the bird and compared it with a Western specimen, from which it differs only in being "a little more of a canary color."

This capture adds a species to the New England list as well as to the fauna of Maine. It also affords still another example of the curious fact that most of the Western and Southern birds which occur in New England as rare or purely accidental stragglers, are found in late autumn or early winter.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.* ~~Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, p.~~
Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 92

Maine

Icterus bullocki

Brewer, Wm.
1890/

I have in my possession the Bullock's Oriole mentioned by Mr. Brewster in the Auk as being taken here. It is an adult male.
(Letter of Manly Hardy, April 9.)

Correspondence.

Editor of O. & O.:

I think Mr. Alden Loring's curious double Oriole's nest (described in your June number) is an instance of a bird's attempt to build in the same place where her brood was raised the year before. The new nest was probably fastened to the other as a matter of convenience. Last year I found what seemed at first a whole colony of Oriole's nests, built close together on hanging branches. Looking closer I saw there were five nests with a gradation in looks from the oldest dilapi-

dated structure down to the last nest, which was new, and contained eggs. They were all somewhat beyond the reach of a person on foot, and the bird (or birds) had perhaps nested there undisturbed for years.

However, I am very chary of expressing any positive opinion on the freaks, so called, of that strangely intelligent workman, the Oriole. I have no doubt they have their reasons for things, which we know little about.

I have a nest of Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*) taken May 7, from pendant twigs forty-four feet up in a eucalyptus tree, which is a puzzling curiosity. The nest proper is built chiefly of horse-hair, in the usual fashion, but the singular thing about it is, that woven to one side of the top is a long irregular flap, built also of horse-hair with fibres of rope and string. This remarkable appendage formed in the tree a sort of platform, at a slightly oblique angle, stretching back from the nest. Its length is 9½ inches, and its shape somewhat like that of a decanter, with the larger part next the nest. From this platform there is a gradual slope into the nest, very like a stair-case, with a protecting bulwark on the side, two inches high, which was evidently built on with the platform, after the completion of the real nest.

That the mother-bird had an object in building her nest as described I feel certain. What was the trend of her thought (?) in its construction I leave the reader to determine. I have my own opinion. *Harry R. Taylor.*

Alameda, Cal., July 17, 1889.

O. & O. XIV. Aug. 1889 p. 144

Californian Notes.

*Poway Valley, twenty-two miles from
San Diego City.*

(Continued from page 137.)

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*), very common; nests ready about the same time as the Hooded. It is a pretty sight to see the males of the Hooded courting the females. They will hop up and down a branch, following one another backward and forward, drawing themselves out to their full length and giving their long, slender tails a short jerk from side to side. A very low note is heard all this time, but no feather pulling like the females when after one another.

H. O. Somerson.

O. & O. IX. Dec. 1884, p. 143-144

Cyanocephalus

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming
Part II. Land Birds. Hypothetical list.
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 88.

24. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.—I have a specimen that is said to have been taken here.

Scolecophagus carolinus.

Feb. Fresh P. marinus - Faxon
one bird in same place shot the 25th
20th - 24th - 25th (1889.) 1889

March A. 25th 1891. 22nd 1892. ^{Mystic, Conn.} 21st (Faxon) - ^{do.} 22nd 8th 10th (Faxon) - 1893 11th (Faxon) 22nd (Faxon) 1894
Rock M. Wm. Ch. 24th 26th (750) 27th 1895 ^{Dorchester} 21st (1250) ^{Great Hill} 1896 30th 1897 19th 29th 30th 1898
13 animals (Faxon) 1899.

April 4th (20) ^{Ball's Hill} 5th ^{Ball's Hill} 11th 12th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 29th Concord, 1897
1st 11th 13th 30th 1898 25th 26th ^{Ball's Hill} ^{Ball's Hill} ^{Ball's Hill} 29th 30th Concord, 1899.

April 18th 24th 25th 26th 27th 1891.
3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 11th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 29th 30th Concord 1892

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 10th 11th 12th 21st 22nd 24th 29th Concord 1893
4th 11th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 21st 30th 1895 3rd 5th 6th 7th 9th 14th 15th 16th 17th 1896
3rd 5th 6th 7th 9th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 27th 28th 1896

May 18th (Faxon) 1890.
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 7th 8th 9th 11th Concord 1892
1st 10th Concord 1-9 Faxon 1893
3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 9th 1894
6th 7th 1895. 1st 1897 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 7th 8th 14th Concord, 1899.

Sept. 21st 24th 28th Concord 1892
21st 26th 29th Faxon 1891.

October 12th 13th 16th 17th 21st 23rd 24th 25th Concord, 1899.
17th 18th 19th 20th 1891. 2nd 4th 6th 7th 9th 15th 16th 18th 19th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 31st Concord 1892

12th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 26th 27th 28th 30th Concord 1894
6th 7th 8th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 26th 28th 29th 30th Concord 1895
11th 22nd 24th Concord 1896 19th 20th 21st 24th Concord, 1897
2nd 3rd 4th 7th 8th 10th 11th 12th 16th 18th 19th 26th 28th 30th Concord 1898

Nov. 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897 None seen by me at Concord. Apparently the
species leaves us with remarkable regularity the very last days of October. S. carolinus
1st 5th Ball's Hill, Concord (a very mild autumn) 1898
9th Concord 1899.

Massachusetts.

Sceloporus carolinus.

1892.

May. 11 Concord. Also saw two Rusty Blackbirds, both males, sitting in the top of a maple. When they utter their jingling notes they always spread the tail to its fullest extent opening and shutting it like a fan.

Oct 25 I see Rusty Grackles daily still in upland meadows and pastures and in alder runs. Their corn feasting is over.

Scotocophagus carolinus.

Concord, Mass.

1893
April 2
(No 4)

As we were skirting the flooded thickets on the Bedford shore of the meadow a Rusty Blackbird started from the bushes and lighted in a maple. The next instant a perfect cove of these birds followed and crowded the branches of the tree as with black fruit. As nearly as we could count there were about fifty, all Rusties. The wind was blowing directly on the shore and the waves dashing among the bushes. We saw single Rusties in several other places.

Rusty
Blackbird.

Scolecophagus carolinus.

Concord, Mass.

1896. A flock of 12 to 15 about equally divided as to sexes
Apr.17. feeding on the marshy shore which two days ago was covered
with water. Gait a walk quicker and lighter than that of the
Crow Blackbird, firmer and more continuous than the Red-wings.
Tail carried slightly raised, the tips of the wings almost
invariably kept below it. Singularly graceful birds. Fine
fellows the males with black coats glistening in the sun, the
females neat and prim with their gray dresses, all using their
bills deftly and industriously, turning over or flinging to
one side wet mud, sodden leaves or masses of old meadow grass
and then stirring up the fresh mud beneath, sometimes probing
it or thrusting the bill down into the base of a tussock,
bringing up at every other thrust a long white larva of some
kind; males rising into alders to jingle every little while.
Sometimes they sang on the ground. None of the females sang
or uttered aught save the rather throaty cluck.

Scolecophagus carolinus.

Concord, Mass.

Roost.

1898. The Rusty Grackles have established an enormous roost in
Oct. 3. the pickerel weed (already blackened and withered by the early
 frosts) and uncut grass about the edges of the shallow little
 lagoon at the head of Beaver Dam Rapid (just below Dakin's
 Hill). As I was leaving the cabin I saw several flocks fly-
 ing up river and when I reached the lagoon (5 P.M.) they were
 coming in from every direction but chiefly from that of Con-
 cord. The flocks varied in size from ten or a dozen to forty
 or fifty birds each. As they came over the lagoon they cir-
 cled once or twice and then swooped down on set wings. As I
 was watching them arrive the entire body of birds already set-
 tled were seized with a sudden panic and took flight in two
 detachments each of which must have contained nearly two hun-
 dred birds. The noise made by their wings was like that of a
 gale blowing through pine trees. Many of them returned to
 the reeds after a short flight but upwards of 200 settled a-
 mong the branches of a nearly leafless maple covering it as
 with a black pall and keeping up their jingling melody until
 I had passed beyond hearing. As I kept on up river flock af-
 ter flock of these Blackbirds passed me on their way to the
 roost. In all I certainly saw 500 birds, and I believe that
 the number was really much greater. There must have been at
 least a few Cow birds, if not some Red-wings, also, but I

Scolecophagus carolinus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. identified only Rusties. I have never seen anything like so large a roost of this species before nor do I remember ever (2). before seeing a roost among herbaceous vegetation, but always in button bushes or low willows or maples.
- Oct.3. Passed the Blackbird roost at 4.30 P.M. About 300 birds there and others arriving every minute. Cow birds heard among them.
- Oct.4. As I was passing the Blackbird roost at 4.20 P.M. on my way up river a flock of Rusties came in. I think they were the first to arrive for I neither saw nor heard any others near the place. Above I saw a number of flocks coming from the direction of Concord. Most of them passed over towards the roost but one flock containing fully 200 birds alighted in a maple on the river bank. I paddled under them and looked them over carefully with my glass. As far as I could make out they were all Cow birds and I now believe that a considerable proportion of the birds which resort nightly to the roost belong to this species.
1899. A solitary bird in the maples on the river bank opposite Pod{Island, on the morning of the 9th. It was uttering the Also 21, 23 & 26. medley of jingling notes which seems to represent the song. This is the third instance of the occurrence of the species in November which I have noted at Concord.

*Addendum to List of Birds
Occurring within Ten Miles of
Point de Monts, Quebec, Canada.
C. H. Merriam.*

151. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus*.

Bull. N. O. O. 8, Oct. 1888, p. 244.

**An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador
M. Abbott Frazar.**

Scolecophagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird.
Latter part of May saw five in a swamp at
Esquimaux Point, but they did not remain,
having evidently just arrived from the south.

O. & O. XII, Mar. 1887, p. 34.

**Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.**

Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*).
June 3. 11. well incubated.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 45

**Birds of Magdalen Islands.
Dr. L. B. Bishop.**

35. *Scolecophagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Common. Breeds
abundantly in the swamps at East Point. They appeared to have finished
breeding by the end of June.

Auk, VI, April, 1889. p. 147

**Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.**

Scolecophagus carolinus. RUSTY GRACKLE.—Rare and local.

Auk, VI, April, 1889. p. 117

**Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.**

Scolecophagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—A flock of twenty or
more, largely young birds, near East Point July 7, were the only ones
seen. I had heard of their occurrence elsewhere.

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p. 10

**Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N. S. J. Dwight, Jr.**

31. *Scolecophagus carolinus*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10 - Sept. 24, 1899.

34. *Scolecophagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Fairly common.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 72.

Notes on some northern birds -
Notes on birds of Ottawa, Ontario
and Vicinity. *Cond.*, XXIII, July, 1906, p. 317.
By Rev. C. W. S. Ziegler.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*).—The southern boundary of the breeding range of this species seems to approximately coincide with that of the preceding species, at least in this region. July 12 I saw at a small lake in the Laurentian Hills, near Inlet, Quebec, a family of this species. I took one of the young to make sure. They had not come there on their migration, for they always stayed together, there were no migrants about, and in every way acted as if at home.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region
Nipissing District, Ontario. 36
by Frederick C. Hubel. *Auk* XXIV, Jan 1907, p. 57.

36. *Euphagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—One pair observed at Short Lake. We visited the same lake later several times and on each occasion both birds were seen flying back and forth along the shore carrying food. They were undoubtedly feeding young.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James F. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 28.

186. *Euphagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Abundant migrant, April 6 to May 8, and September 9 to October 27.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Rusty Grackle, (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*). Not common. Only a few seen in some brush on a beaver dam.

O. & O. XI, Feb. 1886. p. 257

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

Rusty Blackbird (*Scolecophagus carolinus*). A few small flocks were seen.

O. & O. XII, Nov. 1887 p. 183

Bird Notes, Central N. H. Winter '91-92
J. H. Johnson

March 8th, shot a young male Rusty Grackle, that had been seen three times previous. It had the outer eight primaries gone, had probably been shot away in the fall, disabling the bird so it could not migrate. It does not breed here. It was singing and seemed quite happy. I have the skin in my collection.

J. H. Johnson.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

32. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus*. ^{1400 (Water) 700} H. Mass. 1886. April 1⁵ - 5⁵⁰ - Sept. 30⁵⁰ - Oct. 2¹

Scolecophagus ferrugineus Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 March 2 2¹⁰⁰ -

April 9⁵⁰ - 23¹⁰

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 4³ - 5²

1888

March 22²⁵ - 24²⁵ - April 18²

April 5¹² - 9⁶ - 12¹⁰ - Oct. 26⁵⁰ - 27¹⁰⁰

Scolecophagus ferrugineus

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

April 7⁵⁰

Scolecophagus ferrugineus

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

APR 5¹⁵ - 9¹² - 12¹⁰⁰

Scolecophagus ferrugineus

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts
H. K. Job.

On February 8, 1879,
I found a flock of Rusty Blackbirds in Brookline, where they were
feeding in a swamp, there being some ten of them in the flock.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July. 1888. p. 150.

1882 *Scolecophagus ferrugineus* Cambridge Mass.
November 18
A ♂ (no 100) shot by
C. R. Bant on the marsh
bordering Glacis. "Weather clear
with about 4 inches of snow on
the ground."
Note book C. R. Bant.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Scolecophagus carolinus (Müll.), Rusty Black-
bird. Migrant, rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Scotocophagus carolinus

Record for Nov. 13, 1898. E. Mass.

Ralph Hoffmann
Belmont, Mass. Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196.

Euphagus carolinus
Concord Turnpike, Concord, Mass.
(one) Jan. 22, 1905
A. C. Conrey,

Auk, XXXI, 1914, p. 250.

Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*) wintering in Essex Co., Mass.— A flock of Rusty Blackbirds spent most, if not all, the past winter in Danvers, Mass. This seems remarkable considering the great severity of January and February, 1912.

Mr. Brewster records a flock of this species in Brookline, February 8, 1879. Mr. A. C. Conrey noted one on Concord turnpike, Concord, January 22, 1905. Howe & Allen, 1901, give February 20 as earliest, except the accidental February 8, and in Townsend's Birds of Essex Co., March 14 is given.

I first saw a flock of eight individuals during a snowstorm on January 29, feeding on a large pile of manure close to Burley St. On January 30, they were in the same place. I could not find out whether anyone had seen them before this. On February 6, Mr. G. A. Peabody saw twelve on his estate near the same spot, and on February 7, he counted eighteen. I looked up the flock again on February 18, and also counted eighteen birds. They were getting most of their food, apparently, from a large pile of horse manure. From that date until March 19, Mr. Peabody tells me he constantly saw the birds at the same place.— J. C. PHILLIPS, Wenham, Mass. Auk. XXIX July, 1912. p. 395

The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) in Connecticut in Winter.— On January 18, 1914, I observed two Rusty Blackbirds in Edgewood Park, New Haven, Conn. The birds were in a portion of the park that is rather swampy in character. These swamps are evidently fed by springs, as the shallow water does not freeze throughout the year. This makes the third winter record for this species in Connecticut. The other two are both December dates and are regarded, probably correctly, as instances of late fall migration (Birds of Connecticut, 1913, p. 115). It is interesting to note that both of these December records — one by Mr. C. H. Pangburn and one by myself — are from this same swampy area in Edgewood Park.—

ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, New Haven, Conn.
Auk. XXXI. Apr. 1914. p. 250.

Scolecophagus carolinus

Fresh P. Swamps,
Feb. 20-25, 1889
W. Faxon.

Cambridge, Mar. 9/03

Dear Mr. Deane,

~~The breeding-season Dendroica (Black-
burnian) at North Keenington was in full song in
a White Pine wood, ^{June} ~~July~~ 3-26, 1891.~~

~~Autumnal records: Sept. 19, 1889, Appleton St., E. Keenington
near Belmont line, in ~~wiped~~ tree-growth by roadside.
Sept. 23, 1889, Waltham "by the little brook near the school-
house at the corner of Winter and Lincoln Sts." (back of
Prospect Hill, in wiped growth of birches, etc.). I have
~~seen~~ the Blackburnian in Berkshire as late as Sept. 25.~~

You spoke about the Feb. Rusty Grackle the other day. I
find this in my journal for 1889: "Feb. 20. Walking out
from Cambridge this noon, I found a Rusty Grackle in the
Fresh Pond marshes close to the Fitchburg R.R. He seemed
to be numbed by the cold and rain along on the ice among
the bushes. Uttered a low chuck: was in the rusty garb. Weather
cold. Feb. 20. 2° Fahr. at 8 A.M. 3° at sunset. 0° at 11 ^{P.M.} ~~P.M.~~

Feb. 24. 5-5° below zero at 7.15 A.M. To F.P. marshes in P.M. . . . Near
the place ~~the place~~ where I saw the Rusty Grackle on the 20th
I saw (apparently the same) bird again. It was feeding, to-
ward sunset, in a small space of open ^{shallow} water where a
drain-pipe carries the overflow of Glacialis under the

Fitchburg RR. It looks as if there were only one bird here.
Has he wintered here? It is said to do so in Conn. (Merriam).
See also Job's Record of Flocks in Brookline Feb. 8, 1889 (B. N. O. C.
VIII. 150). Feb. 25. Shot the Rudy Grackle this morning.
The water had frozen on his wings and legs as he splashed
about in the little space of open water. Some of his toes
and places on his tarsi were swollen, raw, & sore, as
if frost bitten."

My copy of the 1828-29 Wilson agrees with
yours in the words of reference to plates
Yours sincerely
Halter Falcon

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

83. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus* (Gmelin) Swainson. RUSTY BLACK-
BIRD.—Common summer resident.

Bull. N. O. O, 6, Oct, 1881, p. 231

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

March 13, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, (599). Rusty
Blackbird.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Notes.

Two Rusty Blackbirds arrived at Central Park, N. Y.,
Saturday, March 9th. They were earlier than in the
two previous years. Jenness Richardson.

O. & O. XIV, May, 1889 p. 77

*Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Axtell], New York [1901].
April 16. Also occurring during the whole season.
Rusty Grackle. Numerous flocks.*

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 297.

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

A mottled Rusty Blackbird has been mounted by Mr. W. H.
Collins of Detroit, Mich.,

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 29

Rusty Blackbird—Male, Burlington, Iowa, May,
1888. Head white, rest of plumage natural, except
two primaries on each wing, and a few scattering
feathers which are white.

O. & O. XIII, Aug. 1888 p. 128

Albinos.

BY GEO. G. CANTWELL, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

It has been my good fortune to secure during
the last season several birds that were partially
subject to this strange feature.

On April 13th I collected a ♂ Rusty Grackle
with two large patches of white on its breast,
one is in the form of a half circle about three-
fourths of an inch long, by one-fourth of an
inch broad, and is situated on the lower part of
the throat in the form of a beautiful necktie.
The other patch is more or less round, about
an inch wide, and is situated on the right breast
where the bend of the wing nestles in the
feathers, so when the wings are folded these
white feathers lay over it.

I secured it more by luck than anything else.
I was out for a stroll with a friend who had a
small caliber rifle with him; he wanted to get
some kind of a bird that would skin easy, as he
was not very apt in that line, so I pointed him
out a black bird in a tree near by and told him
that would make an easy specimen, and asked
him to let me try my skill at shooting, which he
did, and I luckily killed it, which proved to be
my first Albino bird.

O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p. 184

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Scolecophagus ferrugineus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.

Sings in the spring during its stay, which is longer than that of any other migratory bird—sometimes from early March till mid-May—and in the autumn from its arrival in September until the great body of the species has passed south. Latest songs are in October, from the 20th to 30th. "Imperfect song-notes November 5," is down in my record.

In the mild winter of 1879-80, these Blackbirds were observed at different times, and their song-notes heard January 18 and February 29.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 252.

Nest and Eggs of the Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*).— I have found but one nest of this species, but its location differs so from that given in the books that I am induced to record a description of it. During the spring of 1884 a pair of Rusty Grackles were noticed for several weeks about the garden of a neighbor in the suburbs of St. John, and apparently making their head-quarters in a large spruce which grew within 30 feet of the house, on the edge of a lawn that formed the daily playground of a bevy of children.

I had spent many an hour looking for the nest of this species "among the foliage of low alders overhanging the water," "in low trees and bushes in moist places," and "in swampy tangle," and I was puzzled to determine why this pair were spending the breeding season far away from all such surroundings. There was no doubt about the identification of the birds; I had grown familiar with their appearance from handling numerous specimens, and I saw these daily, frequently within a few feet of me.

They did not appear in the least disturbed by my presence, but if a Crow invaded their territory it was at once made the object of a vigorous assault. The Grackles were, however, frequently chased by both Robins and Rey-eyed Vireos.

At last something aroused my suspicion that a nest was in that spruce, and on June 24 I climbed up to investigate the matter. When my head was about 28 feet from the ground and among the dense foliage of the upper branches I came in sight of a bulky nest—extremely large for the size of the bird—set close to the stem and loosely laid upon a limb, portions of it spreading over several smaller branches and twigs. But it was merely resting upon them, they being not imbedded in the mud which formed part of the structure. In the nest were two young birds and two eggs unhatched; the latter were secured and the youngsters left for future study.

There was considerable difference in the size of the eggs and in their coloration. The smaller of the two measured 1.09 X .76, and was very similar in color and markings to those described in 'New England Bird Life.' The largest egg was 'pipped' and was destroyed before measured. The markings on it were less distinct than on the other, giving it a somewhat clouded appearance.

On examining the nest it proved to be very roughly constructed, without any approach to artistic work. It was composed chiefly of dried vines of honey-suckle loosely entwined at the sides and by an admixture of mud welded into a solid mass at the bottom. There was no attempt at a lining of any sort.

I noticed that while the young were in the nest both parents were attentive in feeding them, though the male was more frequently found guarding the nest, of which he was most watchful.—JAMES W. BANKS.
St. John, N. B.

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885, p. 106-107.

s. ferrugineus

1886

May 7 + 20 Description of two nests and eggs in
Birds of Onida Co (Ralph & Brass) p. 128

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

57. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus*, (Rusty Black-bird). This species was seen at both Tim and Seven Ponds. At Flagstaff Lake they were observed in small flocks in September. Along Dead River just below Stratton they nested, evidently in considerable numbers, but I was unable to find only two nests. According to Mr. Samuels, who affirms to have found nests on the Magalloway River, they are "large structures and can be seen at a considerable distance." Such is not the case at this place, as they nested in the small hemlocks and were very effectually hidden from view. In my own experience during the ascent of the Magalloway in 1884, I could not discover their conspicuous nests. Their eggs present more of a contrast with *Quiscalus* than one would suppose, being blotched, with none of the lines so characteristic of many of the *Icterus*.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161

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Hawk Owls in New England.— Although the months of October and
 MANY HARDY, BREWER, MAINE.
 feet of him and watched him catch insects over a smoking manure heap—
 is no doubt as to his identity, for my daughter and I stood within a few
 commands a long time. As it was Sunday I did not shoot him, but there

New York (Merkin Co.)

Scolecophagus ferrugineus

1886 Nests & eggs

May 7 & 20 Description of two nests and eggs in
 Birds of Onida Co (Ralph & Bragg) p. 128

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. O.

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Scolecophagus ferrugineus

Concord, Mass.

Oct. 24, 1880

While driving this afternoon I saw an immense flock of these Blackbirds in an apple orchard by the roadside. They were feeding on the ground under the trees so close together that the turf looked black as if a fire had spread there.

Those in the rear of the flock were continually rising & pitching down again in advance of their companions & in this way the whole body advanced at a steady & by no means slow rate. The Rusties feed much on the

Scolecophagus ferrugineus

Habits in autumn

Concord River, Mass.

Sept. 29, 1882

During a shooting trip up Concord River, from Concord to Walpole, I saw many flocks of Rusty Blackbirds. They were feeding on the overflowed meadows crowding the little areas of higher marsh or were wading in the shallow water and often clustering in little groups on an isolated tussock or piece of driftwood. At sunset their numbers were greatly increased by flocks that came in from the surrounding higher country to roost in the thickets of button bushes that fringe the river's banks. But although we saw

981. Rusty Grackle and Pallas's Gray Shrike in Wales. By Henry Seebohm. *Ibid.*, March, 1882, p. 109.—A specimen of *Scolecophagus ferrugineus* killed at Cardiff, Oct. 4, 1881, recorded, forming the first British record of the species. *Zoologist*, VI

uplands of that location. They are separately
packed to England & I determined to show me
first, packed among various birds they are
fly to form nothing below in the future. But
change the first a little after birds.

very many, perhaps hundreds, their
number was as nothing compared
to the thousands that used to
remain to their thickets ten or
twelve years ago. It is hard to
account for this decrease for they
are not often shot but the fact
remains.

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Strange Habits of the Rusty and Crow Blackbirds.—Since the unparalleled cold of the past winter throughout the Southern States, we have heard and read of many instances of the great destruction among our smaller birds; and the unusual scarcity of a number of our common spring migrants, both in the east and west, only demonstrates too clearly the larger numbers which must have perished in their winter home. The most remarkable instance of which I have learned, evidently brought about by the deep snows cutting off the food supply of some species, is the preying of the Rusty and Crow Blackbirds on other species for food.

I am very much indebted to my friend Mr. Jesse N. Cummings of Anahuac, Texas, for the following interesting letter on this subject. Anahuac is in Chambers Co., at the head of Trinity Bay, and north of Galveston. "March 24, 1895. In the first place snow exceeding the depth of two or three inches was never known before in this section of the country, until this storm which commenced the 14th of February and lasted for about thirty hours, covering the ground to a depth of twenty inches on a level and remaining at about that depth for three or four days before it commenced to thaw, and then it was three or four days more before the snow had entirely disappeared. I have on my place an artesian well which has a temperature of about 70° and a flow of 60,000 gallons per twenty-four hours. This kept a large piece of ground on the bay shore free from snow and was the only place in the country where a Jack Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) could warm his toes or get anything to eat. I did not notice the first Snipe that came in, as it was the second day after the snow-storm that my attention was directed to them, and when I went down to see them I should say that there were at least two hundred birds on a space not over one hundred feet square. It did not take me long to get my gun and kill about forty in a short space of time, as you could hardly drive them away,

and as fast as they were flushed would shortly return. I could have shot them every day for a week had I cared to. At this small open piece of ground, the Rusty and Crow Blackbirds had collected, but I did not see them kill many Snipe the first day or two, but the third and fourth days they just went for them. I should say that I saw them actually kill ten or twelve Snipe on the ground where the snow had melted, but there were thirty or forty dead ones that I saw in other places. The Rusty Blackbirds were the principle aggressors, and it was astonishing to see how quickly they could attack and lay out a Snipe or Robin. Both species were killed while on the ground and the Blackbirds would only eat the head, or as near as I could see, the brain, while the body was left untouched.

"Up around my house they attacked the Robins and I have no idea how many they did kill, but you could see them lying around everywhere on the snow, and it was the same way all up and down the bay shore. I presume they killed other species of birds but I did not notice any. I cannot account for this sudden change in the Blackbirds' habits except from lack of any other kind of food and they made the best of what was at hand."

If any of the other readers of 'The Auk' have heard of any rapacious traits in the character of our Blackbirds, I hope they will give us the benefit of their experience.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*